

Editor's Introduction

Welcome to the Strawberry Hill Residents' Association Bulletin

This newsletter is for all our members, which is everyone living in Strawberry Hill.

The SHRA 2023 Annual General Meeting was held at Strawberry Hill Golf Course on 27 April. The AGM passed the motions to re-elect the Committee and to expand the footprint of Strawberry Hill (as defined by the Association) which has been unchanged since 1965. The decision was made to include the grounds of Strawberry Hill Golf Course and two state schools: St James's Catholic Primary School and Archdeacon Cambridge's Church of England Primary School.

The spring has been a busy time for SHRA with the first Strawberry Hill Spring Clean on 1 April, the Supper Talk at the Royal British Legion on 17 April and the Strawberry Hill Family Picnic on 25 June. The SHRA partnerships with Strawberry Hill House and St Mary's University continue to thrive and we are happy to help promote the Summer Sounds events and the Flower Festival at the House and discounted short courses for our residents at the University.

Following the opening of the restored Pope's Grotto in Strawberry Hill we were pleased that our foremost local, literary figure - Alexander Pope (1688-1744) - featured in the much-publicised re-opening of the National Portrait Gallery. His portrait by Jonathan Richardson has pride of place in the eighteenth century rooms (pictured).

If you enjoy reading the Bulletin, then please recommend it to friends and neighbours who will receive it to their Inbox by emailing us at Bulletin@shra.org.uk. They can also register to receive SHRA communications on the Home page of our website – www.shra.org.uk.

Andrew Miller, Chair, SHRA



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In this issue:

Local Issues : Councillor Richard Bennett, Leader of the Green Group, writes about the Local Plan. June Collins presents her regular crime report based on the latest Police Liaison Group meeting. [CLICK HERE](#)

The Association : There is a report on the 2023 AGM and a profile of SHRA's Events Coordinator, Cathy Bird. [CLICK HERE](#)

Green Pages : This features a report on the Strawberry Hill Spring Clean on 1 April and **Laura Nee** introduces the Rewilding Arcadia Project. [CLICK HERE](#)

Events : We report on the 2023 Strawberry Hill Family Picnic at Strawberry Hill House on 25 June and the Supper Talk at the Royal British Legion. [CLICK HERE](#)

Roads & Transport : The Council-commissioned report on traffic in Strawberry Hill sets out the main issues and a range of possible solutions. [CLICK HERE](#)

St Mary's University : Helen Barnes describes short courses on offer with discounts for Strawberry Hill residents. [CLICK HERE](#)

Heritage & History : Bethan Wood highlights upcoming events at our primary local heritage asset, including the final Summer Sounds event and the September Flower Festival at Strawberry Hill House. **Andrew Miller** completes his history of the Pope's Grotto to Hotel (Alexander Pope Hotel). [CLICK HERE](#)

Business : Lotta from Stockholm, an online clothing business operating from Heathlands Industrial estate, is profiled. [CLICK HERE](#)

Local Issues

To ensure that residents are informed about developments at the Council, we have invited **Richard Bennett**, one of our councillors for South Twickenham Ward, to provide an update on issues that will affect Strawberry Hill. SHRA is an apolitical organisation and any opinions expressed are the councillor's own.

Councillor's Update

Councillor Richard Bennett, Leader of the Green Group & Leader of the Opposition, London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames (Cllr.r.bennett@richmond.gov.uk).

Local Plan

I do want to remind everyone that the Public Consultation on the Local Plan is open until July 24th. I feel identified with the Local Plan because I have spent three years in the working group producing it. It is an essential reference document guiding future development in the Borough. It does attempt a 15-year horizon. Although it does not attempt a strategic view of traffic and transport, which merits attention outside of the Plan. The Local Plan can be viewed on the Council website. Responses can be online or by post. Emails to localplan@richmond.gov.uk are another option.

Design Review Panel

After five years on the Planning Committee, I have a high regard for the contribution to better planning of these under-appreciated panels. They are not compulsory for major planning applications, but they are becoming the norm. An expert, external team examines the quality of applications and, in discussion, exerts an influence on them before their submission. It does not guarantee subsequent acceptance by the Planning Committee because developers are, for example, more willing to modify design than decrease density, but it does achieve beneficial changes to proposals. Often, planning rules oblige us to approve, and this is worthwhile.

Adult Mental Health

In the past year I have been on the Adult Social Services, Health, and Housing Committee, and also the Borough's Health & Well-being Board. We are one of five Boroughs covered by St George's Mental Health Trust, and (not just in my opinion) are the most ill-served one. In a situation in which overall resources for serious adult mental health have been declining our Borough is particularly badly affected.

Richmond Royal and Barnes Hospital have been sold for residential development. Parts of the developments will restore some services to Richmond in the next few years. At present Richmond support is based in Teddington (Livingston House) and Twickenham support is from the Maddison Centre also in Teddington (Church Road). The hub, hospital provision and management are heavily focused on Tooting. I have been expressing my views to directors and senior management in the Trust. I hope that I will manage to make a difference.

High Tide Festival 30th July 2023

In its fourth year, High Tide is extended from the Town Centre and will also be staged on Twickenham Green. Your South Twickenham Councillors were able to secure Council funding to support it. It is not only not-for-profit but FREE.

Local Issues

Crime in Strawberry Hill

by June Collins

The last Police Liaison Group Meeting was held on 11th April. Police Constable Greig Roberts has now joined the team which also comprises Sergeant Rumi Miah, PC Raymond Sullivan and PCSO Kyle Mackenzie. Below are the crime figures for January – March 2023 for South Twickenham Ward (of which Strawberry Hill is a part) and the comparative figures for the same period in 2022.

Crime Figures;

Offence	JAN - MAR 2022	JAN - MAR 2023	Change
Burglary	9	8	0
Criminal Damage	6	8	+2
Robbery	3	0	-3
Theft from M/V	4	2	-2
Theft of M/V	8	6	-2
Theft of pedal cycle	12	9	-3
Non Domestic	10	7	-3
Domestic	6	8	+2
Youth Violence	1	0	-1

Most crimes have **reduced** in comparison to last year, burglary is the same, and criminal damage and domestic violence have increased slightly.

Burglaries have remained the same at eight and four of those were thefts from sheds/garages. Three were pedal cycles and one incident involved tools from a summerhouse in the garden. There was no pattern with the pedal-cycle theft except that two of them were taken from St. Mary's University – a previous hotspot. These incidents mainly happened at night. There was a spate of burglaries at Antipodea in Radnor Gardens which were reported. Two different suspects were named and this was passed onto the Burglary Team to investigate. The café does have CCTV and it is the responsibility of the café owners to make the premises more secure, however, this is a hard task given that the awning was designed to keep out the elements rather than malefactors. Burglary hotspots will be monitored using crime reports to work out areas to target. As well as identifying any burglary suspects, police will carry out crime-prevention patrols in targeted areas and give out crime prevention advice.

There were eight incidents of **domestic assault**, up two on 2022. The Police run a Domestic Abuse advice centre in Hampton Hill on a regular basis and are also engaging with **Go Girl campaigns**. A session for students was run at St. Mary's University.

There have been a couple of suspects arrested for **motor vehicle** interference or trying car door handles, after prompt action from local residents calling the police on the 999 number.

The police have set up two Ward priorities – focussing on 'high harm' – violence against the person and 'high volume' theft from motor vehicles. Action will involve aggressively patrolling known areas shown on Street Safe. Using the Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment (SARA) model of Problem Orientated Policing to identify offenders, patterns and actions. In order to reduce theft from motor vehicles the plan to hold briefings in roads where there has been a high volume in the past, as well as providing Crime Pattern Analysis (CPA) for residents and (possibly) signage in those high-volume areas. There will be: research of intelligence systems to identify locations for patrols and potential offenders; high-visibility patrols; promoting crime prevention through social media and engagement with the community and with owners of vehicles at highest risk.

Richmond Safer Neighbourhood Board offer a free crime prevention visit to residential addresses. Email: crimepreventionadvice@yahoo.com

Police Information Links

Twitter address for South Twickenham SNT is [@MPSSTwickenham](https://twitter.com/MPSSTwickenham)

South Twickenham SNT email address: southtwickenham.snt@met.police.uk

The new Ward contact enquiry line for South Twickenham: **027 175 9465**. This is a number for advice, e.g. about a new bike, or raising an issue – it is not a reporting number, that would be 101 or 999.

Please note residents can view crime figures on the Met website for their area:

Link is : [Home | Metropolitan Police](#) and then put in your postcode.

Here is a link to the crime statistics which are all available on the Met website <https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data>

You can report people who are homeless to SPEAR, the homeless charity based in Heath Road, and they will go out to help them.

Spear 0208 288 6506 <https://www.spearlondon.org/>

Find below a link to the Street Safe online reporting App

<https://www.met.police.uk/notices/street-safe/street-safe/>

Twitter address for South Twickenham [@SNT](https://twitter.com/SNT) [@MPSSTwickenham](https://twitter.com/MPSSTwickenham)

South Twickenham SNT email address: southtwickenham.snt@met.police.uk

The Association

The SHRA AGM



The SHRA Annual General Meeting was held at the Strawberry Hill Golf Club on Wednesday 26 April. We had a total of 31 people in attendance – there was some competition from the celebratory event for Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust and the Mayor's summer cruise party. Andrew Miller, Chair, gave an overview of the year and thanked members of the Committee for their service including those standing down, Sharon Willoughby and Zoe Prindiville.

He name-checked the social media used by SHRA including 300 Facebook, 3,000 Twitter and 800 Instagram followers. The email distribution list for the online Bulletin stands at 200 and a further 725 residents receive the link via their WhatsApp and email 'street groups'. SHRA needs to improve communications with residents and there is a vacancy on the Committee for someone to work on Communications Support.

The monthly litter picks have been a popular addition to SHRA's activities giving an opportunity for residents to participate regularly in maintaining the neighbourhood. The Strawberry Hill Spring Clean on 1 April was also applauded (see Green Pages). The SHRA Events team successfully organised the annual 'Carols in the Village' in December and the 'Strawberry Hill Family Picnic' in June as part of our partnership with Strawberry Hill House (see Events Pages). We also experimented with the 'Super Talks at the Legion' where a history topic was paired with a fish-and-chip supper at the Royal British Legion, with very good feedback from participants.

The year has been relatively quiet for planning applications affecting Strawberry Hill. SHRA did send in 'comments' on the proposed rebuilding of the Music Block at St Catherine's School a proposal that was subsequently rejected by the Council.

We were pleased at the demand for the fourth, enlarged reprint of Strawberry Hill: a history of the neighbourhood by former SHRA member, Anthony Beckles Willson which has sold 215 copies since publication in 2022. Mike Cherry has just completed a street history of Radnor Road which can be accessed via the SHRA website. Andrew completed house histories for Pope's Grotto Hotel and Thornton Lodge.

John Tjaardstra, SHRA Business Coordinator, has had a busy year making links to our diverse business community and securing sponsorship for our activities. Traffic and transport in Strawberry Hill remain a big issue and we have been busy responding to consultations and addressing issues raised by residents. Community liaison is an important part of the role of SHRA and we have developed links with our largest local employer, St Mary's University. This includes regular meetings with the Students' Union to discuss ways in which students can support SHRA activities.

Andrew undertook a review of the boundaries of Strawberry Hill which were fixed in 1965 when the Association was set up, but there is no one to explain the rationale behind those decisions. The AGM approved a decision of the Committee to expand the boundaries of Strawberry Hill to include: St James' Catholic Primary School, Archdeacon Cambridge's Church of England School and the grounds of Strawberry Hill Golf Club. Links with the schools would assist in reaching younger families in our area and the Golf Club has significant green space which may face future threats from developers.

Treasurer's Report

The balance sheet for 2022 showed SHRA had total assets of £5,573. Income was up on the previous year at £3,135 with significant contributions being made by Christmas sponsorship and book sales, despite a 28% fall in subscriptions and donations (2021-£1160/2022-£842). Expenditure was also up at £2,669 with new costs including the Family Picnic and the SHRA history book. Nevertheless, income exceeded expenditure by £466. Despite costs of 'Carols in the Village' rising, this was offset by business sponsorship of the event.

Guest speaker – Laura Nee

Laura Nee of the Rewilding Arcadia Project gave a presentation on reducing the flood risk along our stretch of the Thames through sustainable drainage (see article in Green Pages).

Andrew thanked all those Committee members and residents who have contributed to a busy and successful year for SHRA.



The Association

Profile of SHRA Committee members

We are gradually publishing profiles of current members of the SHRA Committee.

Cathy Bird, Events Coordinator



Cathy has lived locally in Strawberry Hill since 1979 and has brought up two children here, both of which attended Archdeacon Cambridge's primary school, before moving on to local secondary schools and Richmond College. Following an enjoyable career in educational research, administration and management, mostly at London University, she decided to take early retirement, since when she has been heavily involved in local educational governance at infant, secondary and FE college level. She is a passionate supporter of the Alzheimer's Society, providing lay support for Alzheimer's research and carrying out voluntary work for the society. She is a keen supporter of SHRA, for which she has been a Committee member on and off for eight years.

A photograph of a modern brick building with a large glass extension on the ground floor, showing an interior with tables and chairs. The building is surrounded by greenery and a lawn. A QR code is visible in the top right corner of the image.

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The Association

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION:

Your contribution is vital in allowing SHRA to maintain and develop its events and activities including litter picks, the Big Family Picnic, the planter, the Bulletin, local history, protecting the heritage and monitoring planning applications. We also maintain a fund for legal fees which are required if there is a need to challenge local planning decisions. All Committee members are volunteers. The suggested subscription fee is £5-£10 annually per household (April-March).

You can pay by BACs, Standing order or cheque.

BACs - please email the Treasurer (june.collins@hotmail.co.uk) when making a BACs payment so we know what it is for and who you are. Details:

NatWest Account Name: **Strawberry Hill Residents' Association**

Sort Code: 55-50-39

Account Number: 71550410

Standing order – please email the Treasurer (june.collins@hotmail.co.uk) for a SO form.

Cheques payable to **Strawberry Hill Residents' Association**, drop in or post to June Collins, **23b Tower Road, TW1 4PD** OR Post Office, 50 Tower Road, TW1 4PE (please enclose a note with your name, address and email).

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION : Your contribution is gratefully received and helps maintain the planters near the station, assists in publication costs and allows us to run and manage the AGM's as well as funds for possible local legal and planning requirements. All committee members are volunteers.
Suggested subscription fee is **£5-£10 annually per household**.

Cheques to Strawberry Hill Resident's Association

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ **POSTCODE:** _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

Please drop in to either A: June Collins, 23b Tower Road, TW1 4PD or
B : Post Office, 50 Tower Road, TW1 4PE

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SHRA on social media

Please join/visit the following for more regular posts about Strawberry Hill.

Website – www.shra.org.uk



[@SHResidents](https://twitter.com/SHResidents)



[Strawberry_Hill_RA](https://www.instagram.com/Strawberry_Hill_RA)



[Strawberry Hill Residents' Association](https://www.facebook.com/StrawberryHillResidentsAssociation)

Green Pages

By Louisa Carradine & Andrew Miller

Strawberry Hill Spring Clean

Since July 2022 SHRA has been organising a regular first-Saturday-of-the-month litter pick in the streets around the centre of the 'Village'. We are grateful to our regular litter-picking group who have been turning out throughout the year to help keep our streets clean. Our Environmental Coordinator, Louisa Carradine, has been organising the picks which were her original idea. She has been supported in this endeavour by the green charity, Habitats & Heritage, which provides all the necessary equipment. Following the success of our monthly picks, the SHRA Committee decided to try a 'Big Litter Pick' which became known as the Strawberry Hill Spring Clean. The aim was to try to pick 90% of the 42 streets and closes in Strawberry Hill.



The date of the first Strawberry Hill Spring Clean was Saturday 1 April from 9-11am. Pickers registered ahead of the day and were directed to the north base (Upper Grotto Road) or the south base (Strawberry Hill Road) to collect equipment and high-vis jackets. Altogether 36 residents took part including 9 members of the SHRA Committee. We were able to exceed our target and cover all 42 streets, as well as the green space of Radnor Gardens. A special thanks to Councillor Richard Bennett who (bravely) took on the 'Stetten' (alley by the station) with Patricia from Waldegrave Gardens.

The SHRA AGM voted to extend the boundary of Strawberry Hill (according to SHRA) to include the Golf Course. As a consequence, May's litter pick included the copse adjoining Wellesley Road which had a fair amount of unsightly litter, in part a result of foxes raiding recycling bins.

The second Big Litter Pick (aka The Strawberry Hill Autumn Clean) is scheduled for **Saturday 7 October from 9-11am.**

Chapman's Sponsorship

We are pleased to announce that Chapman's of Twickenham has sponsored the SHRA planter in Tower Road. They have provided **£60 worth of plants free of charge** to help in the summer replacement of our lovely daffodils.

Green Pages

The Thames Landscape Strategy

by Laura Nee, Partnerships, Outreach & Education Officer, Rewilding Arcadia Project

The Thames Landscape Strategy vision provides a comprehensive appraisal of the character of the landscape and sets out how humans have always tried to find ways to control the River Thames. These measures have, over the last century, seen much of the London Metropolitan area successfully protected from a flood event. Between Weybridge and Kew however, the river landscape is characterised by large tracts of relatively undefended land, where the flood defences are set a long way back from the water's edge. As such, many parks, open spaces, wildlife sites and towpaths are within the functioning floodplain.

By their very nature, these spaces should be resilient to flooding; however, previous land use decisions have seen much of the dynamism and wildness of the Arcadian floodplain lost through obsolete modifications. As a result, the floodplain's natural capacity to function during a flood event has been greatly reduced. At the same time, public perception towards the purpose of 'floodplain' has shifted as spaces that were historically regarded as 'wet' were increasingly managed as 'dry' environments.

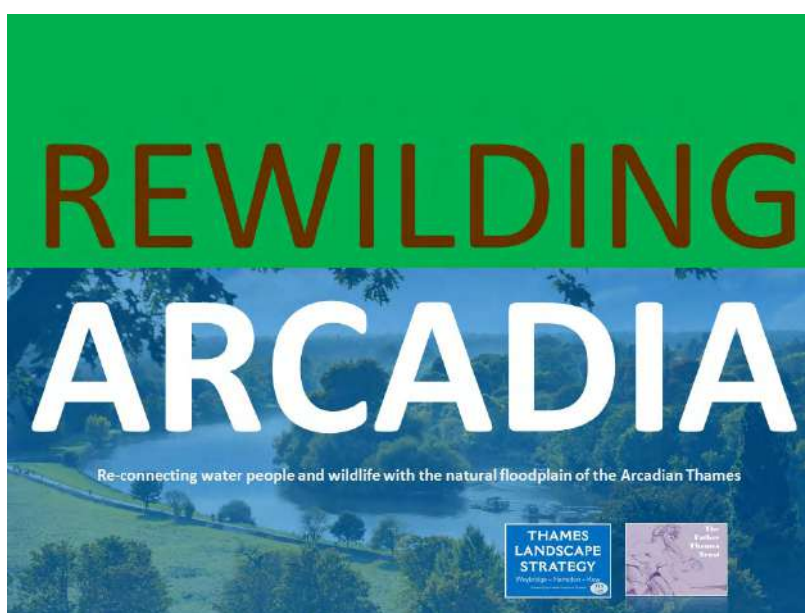
To a large extent, this hasn't been a problem. Climate change however, has altered the balance. The river is reclaiming its lost floodplain back; threatening cherished landscapes, recreational opportunities, heritage and wildlife as flood risk increases. The purpose of the floodplain and our relationship with it needs to be revisited and the imbalance between water, people and nature restored.

Rewilding Arcadia

As such, the TLS launched a ground breaking project called Rewilding Arcadia to develop, explain and deliver a series of nature-based, flood-risk-management projects to increase understanding of flood risk and introduce possible long-term term solutions to make the floodplain resilient to climate change. Rewilding Arcadia is not setting out to create large new areas of floodplain or to improve the existing flood defences. Rather, it looks to identify changes that will be necessary to achieve a functioning natural floodplain in places that are at risk already.

By using alternative land-management methods in our waterside parks and open spaces, we can conserve and enhance the unique heritage, wildlife and recreational opportunities in areas like Radnor Gardens. Models predict that unavoidable changes to the operation of the Thames Barrier will be needed and when combined with an increase in peak fluvial flood events the Arcadian Thames floodplain is at particular risk. What is wet now is likely to get a lot wetter, we can no longer do nothing.

By explaining the process of restoration to communities and authorities, resilience to flooding can be maximised, strategic policy can be understood and natural flood management can be achieved on the ground –delivered in a way that ensures river users and local people have a real stake in shaping the future of their river.



Events

By Julia Fiehn

Strawberry Hill Family Picnic

Thanks to SHRA's partnership with Strawberry Hill House, the second Strawberry Hill Family Picnic was held on a beautifully-hot Sunday afternoon on 25 June. Last year, at the 'free' event, there were a lot of 'no-shows', so the Committee decided on pricing adult tickets at £5, with children entering for free. This proved a successful approach and there were advance sales of 65 adults and 40 children augmented by 15 people paying on the day. Several of Strawberry Hill's youngest residents enjoyed the picnic under the shade of a tree on the lawn facing the House – as an entire National Childbirth Trust Group used our event for their reunion. There were also small groups of more senior residents who enjoyed their picnic (with prosecco) and the music before the magnificent façade of the House.

Musical entertainment was provided by a 13-member Richmond Brass Band who played children's favourites ('Teddy Bears' Picnic') and classics ('I Dreamed a Dream'). Children were enthralled by Jolie Julie, children's entertainer, with a variety of engaging activities interspersed with magic. Strawberry Hill House made their children's 18th century dressing-up box available and parents enjoyed photographing their offspring in Horace-Walpole-era threads. Some children enjoyed drawing their favourite animal on the cardboard eco-Castle and others enjoyed the free treats – strawberries and cream.

The event was well received by participants.

'It was a pleasure. Such a beautiful day and a fabulous venue' (Richmond Brass Band member)

'It was a wonderful event, we will definitely be coming back next year' (Resident)

'This was our first Strawberry Hill picnic and we thoroughly enjoyed the community, ambience and atmosphere. We look forward to attending many more in the future' (Resident)

This year the event received terrific support from our business community as the list of sponsors suggests.

Brewers Decorator Centres
Brightlife Chemist
Jawbone Brewing
Kyzan Hairdressing
Mercury Motors
Robinson Home Studio
St Mary's University
Strawberry Hill Golf Club
Twickenham Body Health



Events

By Julia Fiehn

We were also able to hold a free raffle with prizes donated by our local businesses.

Lotta from Stockholm provided a pair of designer clogs of choice from Sweden.

Sopa Thai Restaurant gave a meal for two.

Strawberry Hill House gave two tickets to an August 'Summer Sounds' event.

The Alexander Pope Hotel/Young's Brewery provided a night's accommodation for two.

So, a huge thank you to our business supporters for contributing to the success of our annual picnic.

SHRA Supper Talk at the Royal British Legion

The first Supper Talk at the Legion was given by Peter Lamb on the theme of 'A Strawberry Hill Resident's Personal Investigation of World War 1'. We hope this is the first of a series. Twenty-six residents attended the talk by the SHRA historian. During the centenary of the 1914-18 War, Peter researched and wrote profiles of many Strawberry Hill soldiers and sailors as part of the Hunt for Heroes series that was published in the SHRA Bulletin. Peter gave an account of his search for information on his grandfather, Frank Thomas of the Royal Fusiliers, who was injured by a shell and, later, by a gunshot wound to the chest. After the premature death of his wife in the 1920s, he became a recluse living in a hut he had built for himself. Peter detailed the various documents he had tracked down which filled in some of the details of Frank's wartime experiences. There was a lively Q&A session when residents contributed their own reminiscences. They also perused Andrew Miller's collection of World War 1 memorabilia including postcards, photographs and trench art. Residents enjoyed the excellent supper of cider-battered cod fillet with skin-on fries and mushy peas.



Poster for last Supper Talk in April - more to come!

Get into golf

Strawberry Hill is offering four lessons for beginners and novices for just £40.00 led by our PGA professional, Peter Buchan

www.shgolf.co.uk

Just call the secretary on: 020 8894 0165
Email: secretary@shgolf.co.uk
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If you would like to run an advert in The Bulletin, please contact our editorial team activelearning@blueyonder.co.uk

Costs are £50 for a quarter page, £75 for a half page for 3 editions per annum. We reserve the right to adjust size of advert to fit editorial.

If you would like us to design the layout for you, then the cost is negotiable dependant on artwork required starting at £50.

Roads & Transport

By Andrew Miller

On 17 April the Council's Transport and Air Quality Committee approved public consultation on the report of the Strawberry Hill Traffic Study. Complaints were received from residents concerning Strawberry Hill roads being used by through traffic to avoid congestion on main roads. Funding was secured from Transport for London to examine issues and to propose solutions. Funding was also secured to review cycle safety – following a history of cycle-related personal injury - on the A310 Cross Deep, including the junction with Waldegrave Road and Strawberry Vale.

The most important issues identified and possible solutions are set out in the table below.

Issues	Possible Solutions
Traffic congestion in A305 Heath Road and A310 Cross Deep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of bus lane hours, pedestrian improvements at priority junctions, lowering of speed limit to 20mph
High number of cycle collisions in A310 Cross Deep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lowering of speed limit to 20mph
Increased traffic volumes and parking issues at school drop off/pick-up points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore merits of 'School Streets' in roads near St Catherine's School – Bonser, Holmes, Pope's Grove
Problems at western end of Wellesley Road by St James's School – high number of collisions, high traffic speeds, lack of controlled pedestrian crossing point near the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore merits of 'School Street' and/or controlled pedestrian crossing by St James's School
High traffic speed near Archdeacon Cambridge's school on A311 Hampton Road by Twickenham Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore merits of 'School Streets' to south east of Hampton Road, Introduction of bus-friendly traffic-calming measures as part of 'School Safety Zone'

We note that the Traffic Study included a couple of ideas that would affect the centre of the 'Village'. The first was to reallocate under-used parking spaces in Wellesley Road to 'improve the pedestrian/cycle environments'. The second was to provide 'gateway treatment' to the local centre to better prioritise pedestrian movements over motorised traffic. There are also opportunities to introduce 'placemaking improvements', such as: parklets, greening, outdoor dining and cycle-parking facilities.

The next steps require officers to undertake public consultation with residents and key stakeholders to assess levels of support for the traffic-management solutions proposed. It was also recognised that measures to reduce through-Strawberry-Hill traffic could lead to increased congestion on adjacent main roads.

On 29 June the Council published an Order (Ref 23/110) to introduce a 20mph speed limit on the A310 Cross Deep and along Strawberry Vale to Hampton Wick. We also note that the long delayed works to improve the cycle corridor along this stretch of road were recently completed. These two measures should improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists in Cross Deep/Strawberry Vale.



Cross Deep Junction with Heath Road & Kings Street,
Image courtesy of Google Streetview

St Mary's University

Short Courses – Strawberry Hill Residents Welcome!

By Helen Barnes, Short Course Administrator

The team in the Short Courses office at St Mary's University would like to say a big thank you to all those who have been volunteers for our massage students to practice on while they are learning and also for examinations. We, and our students, are very grateful for the support. We are always looking for volunteers for a massage-practice treatment, so if you haven't yet signed up to our database and you would like to be involved, please [email shortcourses@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:email_shortcourses@stmarys.ac.uk) or call 020 8240 4321.

We are also delighted to be gearing up for September and getting all our new courses in place and have also launched a dedicated discounted webpage that we have put in place especially for our Strawberry Hill locals. Here you can take advantage of a number of our courses at a discounted rate. We offer language courses including French, Spanish and Italian and also British Sign Language. September will also see the launch of a brand new fun and sociable **St Mary's Book Club** to name a few of the courses that feature. Please visit stmarys.ac.uk/neighbours-discounts.



Train to be a personal trainer, learn a new language or join a book club.

If you are looking to enrich your spare time by learning something new, taking on an exciting new challenge or adding to your skills portfolio, we may have a course for you.

As a local neighbour you can take advantage of a number of exclusive discounts too!

To book:

stmarys.ac.uk/neighbours-discounts

Telephone: 020 8240 4321

Email: shortcourses@stmarys.ac.uk

Wider qualifications will also be on offer. Perhaps you are considering a new career as a massage or sports massage therapist, or maybe you are already qualified or work as a physiotherapist or osteopath and would like to add to your skills portfolio. This year we are proud to say it is our 25th anniversary of teaching massage qualifications! Please visit stmarys.ac.uk/short-courses/massage

We also offer courses that allow you to qualify as a Yoga or Pilates teacher, Personal Trainer, or you can learn essential First Aid skills. Details of all our courses are available on stmarys.ac.uk/short-courses

Finally, if there are any courses or qualifications you would like us to offer please do drop us a line, we are always happy to consider and look into things. Have a lovely summer!

History & Heritage

Upcoming events at Strawberry Hill House

By Bethan Wood,
Marketing & Communications Manager

As part of the Summer Sounds series of music, enjoy a relaxing Summer evening listening to the fabulous The Polka Dots on Sunday 6 August 2023. Take two smooth sassy voices, arrange a collection of toe-tapping original and cover swing songs, add sharp dance routines and on-stage chemistry, and you have The Polka Dots. Whether it's 1940s Swing or 1950s Rockabilly, The Polka Dot's are guaranteed to be a crowd-pleaser, bringing glamour, fun and energy to every performance.



The Strawberry Hill House Flower Festival returns this September from **Friday 22 – Sunday 24 September 2023**. The Festival offers a spectacular showcase of the very best of British-grown flowers, foam-free sustainable floristry, and the design creativity of the UK's leading floral designers.

Curators Leigh Chappell & Janne Ford have commissioned over thirty floral designers and growers to respond to the spectacular interiors of the House. Including Hampshire growers Hortus Poeticus, who will transform the staircase with exceptional English flowers that will fill the space with their remarkable scent and beauty, and also present this year's Masterclass. We also welcome industry stars Henck Rolling, who was a part of the team that created the Orchid display at Kew, and the exciting Sophie Powell from Unidentified Floral Object. The Flower Festival is proudly sponsored by Savills Teddington and is held in association with Flowers from the Farm.



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History & Heritage

Pope's Grotto Hotel – Part 2 By Andrew Miller



This is the second part of a history of Pope's Grotto Hotel. The first part was in Bulletin 179 and it covered the period from its opening in 1853 to the departure of the publican, Florence Steidel in 1935. The inter-war years saw alterations to the fabric of the building in this photograph from the 1930s. The stables have gone to be replaced by an enlarged hotel and the car park is marked by pointing fingers. The hotel entrance is marked by a sign above the white door and the Lounge is entered via the wooden door on Pope's Grove. The stone balustrade on the roof has been removed.

From 1937 the licensed victualler was John Ansell (1905-) who was married to Phyllis Ruby Page (1907-). In 1944, Phyllis Ansell was prosecuted for watering down the gin. On 19 June 1944, a V1 flying bomb or 'doodlebug' hit the 'Tudor House' at the corner of Cross Deep and Holmes Road killing a mother and her four-month-old son. This bomb also destroyed the Pope's Grotto Hotel. A 'temporary hut' was erected in 1951 which lasted until 1959. From 1951 to 1959, John Ansell was still the publican.

During the late 1950s, Young and Co. commissioned architects to produce designs and plans for the rebuilding of a permanent brick-built structure. The new Pope's Grotto was opened in 1959 by the Mayor of Richmond-upon-Thames and representatives of Young's brewery. The Ram Brewery mascot, Ramrod, was present at the photoshoot as were the dray horses and cart for which the brewer was renowned. The publican was Roy Booker (1924-2010) who had previously been living in Ealing and working as the manager of Bental's (Ealing) Ltd a celebrated department store on Ealing Broadway. His wife was Joyce Eileen Elves (aka Grzywacz – pictured).

During the 1980's Young's adopted a policy of converting pubs into hotels. In 1992, SHRA led by Chair, Ian Davies, opposed plans by Young's to turn the Pope's Grotto public house into a 21-bedroom hotel on the grounds that the view of the river needed to be protected for residents. The brewery claimed that the new hotel was vital to Twickenham's tourist industry. In 1998, the Council gave the go-ahead to Young's for a 32-room hotel. The hotel and attached pub opened in 2000. In 2004, the pub was deemed to be the 'best place to drink Young's beer in England' in Young's annual beer quality competition. The licensees were Anthony and Kate Lee.

In 2009, Anthony Beckles Willson led a campaign by SHRA, backed by a petition against the renaming of the Pope's Grotto as 'The Alexander', claiming it was an 'abuse of its historical identity'. Following meetings between Willson and Young's Brewery, a compromise was reached and it was called 'The Alexander Pope'.



Pope's Grotto Hotel in the 1930s

Picture above, left : 1959 Opening

Picture below, left : 'Temporary hut'



Business Pages

Lotta from Stockholm



Tucked away in our own Industrial Estate off the top of Heathlands Gardens is the intriguingly-named Lotta from Stockholm. Lotta is not just a marketing gimmick but a real person who was born and raised in Sweden's capital city. She grew up during the 'clog craze' of the 1970s when she had several pairs. Lotta moved to the UK and settled down to work and family and then, on a trip back to Sweden, she noticed people wearing clogs again and bought some. They were noticed by folk in the street who asked where she got them and so, on her next trip home, she started bringing back a suitcase full of clogs. This led on to a website and the online business we see today with four staff in the warehouse and four in the office. You can reach Lotta at info@lottafromstockholm.co.uk.

This is Strawberry Hill's own piece of Scandinavia. The online business founded by Lotta sells a range of wares from her native Sweden including clogs, slippers, bags (many are 'Vegan'), accessories, jewellery, Pappelina rugs (woven from 'high quality non-toxic Swedish plastic'), Tretorn raincoats and a modern version of the Pippi Longstocking jumper. They also have a wide range of Swedish and Icelandic sheepskin which can be used as drapes. You can check out their website at www.lottafromstockholm.com.