

Editor's Introduction

DIAMOND JUBILEE EDITION – SHRA 60TH ANNIVERSARY

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

As regular readers of the Bulletin will know, SHRA was born out of a protest against a road-building proposal through the middle of Strawberry Hill. It was 60 years ago in February 1965 that over 300 residents crowded into St James Memorial Hall in Radnor Road. So, 2025 marks the Diamond Jubilee and there is an extended article about SHRA's history in this Bulletin. Sadly, one of our founding members, and first Vice Chair, June Turner of Tower Road, died before we could interview her for this edition. We pay tribute to June and the other volunteers who have served the Committee in the past 60 years (12 Chairs, 7 Honorary Secretaries & 7 Treasurers).



We invite resident members of SHRA to join us in celebrating **60 years of the Association at Strawberry Hill Golf Course on Thursday 1 May**. Proceedings will begin with a complimentary drink and a finger buffet and residents will be able to meet members of the Committee and councillors. This will be followed by the usual short AGM when members of the Committee are elected. This year also marks 125 years since the foundation of Strawberry Hill Golf Course.

Following the success of our SHRA summer picnics in 2022 and 2023, aimed at families in the area, we have decided to hold another Strawberry Hill Summer Picnic in the grounds of Strawberry Hill House on the afternoon of Sunday 29 June. As in previous events, music will be provided by the excellent Richmond Brass Band and a children's entertainer will put on fun shows for the children. This represents a partnership between SHRA and Strawberry Hill House who are providing ticketing for the picnic. It is also 15 years since the House opened as a major visitor attraction in Strawberry Hill, another cause for celebration.

It is also a special year for our largest educational institution and biggest employer in the area, St Mary's University. It is 175 years since the original institution was founded and 100 years since the College moved from Hammersmith to Strawberry Hill. In the spring the University will unveil an exhibition to celebrate those 175 years. We are also happy to report on progress on the new E-Sports Arena and the School of Medicine.

Andrew Miller, Chair, SHRA



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In this issue:

Local Issues : Councillor Richard Bennett, Leader of the Green Group, discusses the Council's budget and other issues.

June Collins reports on crime in Strawberry Hill. [CLICK HERE](#)

The Association : We report on recent and upcoming activities including the Social Evening/AGM and the Strawberry Hill Summer Picnic SHRA . [CLICK HERE](#)

SHRA 60th Anniversary : We look back on 60 years of the Association. [CLICK HERE](#)

Heritage & History : Rebecca Leuw informs residents about forthcoming events at Strawberry Hill House. Peter Lamb introduces the first part of the house history of The Old Stables in Strawberry Vale. [CLICK HERE](#)

St Mary's University : We report on new developments at SMU including the new School of Medicine and the E-Sports Arena. Helen Barnes provides a description of upcoming short courses with discounts for local residents. [CLICK HERE](#)

June Turner Obituary: We pay tribute to a founding member and the first Vice-Chair of SHRA. [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).

Mega Skip!

The Council's Megaskip arrived in Strawberry Hill (Wellesley Road) on Saturday 8th March. It was a magnet for a huge amount of potentially fly-tippable material. By 9.30am it was almost completely full. I spoke to a woman carrying a dilapidated armchair, who said it had been in her garden for the past year. There goes the neighbourhood!

Council Budget

The Council's Budget Meeting was on the 4th March. I acknowledge that most residents find our Council's finances at best unexciting. As Chair of the Audit Committee, you will not be surprised that I take comfort in them being reassuringly boring. Spelthorne (Sunbury, Staines, Shepperton) with debts of £1.1billion and Woking with debts of £2bn provide a backdrop for what can happen. This year in Richmond Borough the money continues to be soundly managed. However, there are some concerns, notably a projected need for substantial borrowing for the first time in my seven years as a Councillor.

Increases in Adult Social Care costs have been a serious problem in 2024/25. Inflation, an ageing population (especially over 80s), and the burdens imposed by NHS discharge policy are contributors. An additional £7m is allocated for 2025/26, but the necessary programme to improve the situation is one of my areas of focus.

Examples of good news are that problems such as potholes and collapsing Thames towpaths (one collapsed near Kew Gardens last October) are well funded. Also, in the last three years 179 long-term vacant properties have been converted back into homes.

Twickenham Riverside has been making painfully slow progress. I hear the reasons, but I am keenly disappointed and worried by it. After waiting half a century this is an immediate priority for me.

Town Twinning

Richmond Borough will be celebrating the 65th anniversary of its international partnerships with Fontainebleau and Konstanz from 6-8th June in Richmond. 500 guests are expected.

Royal Parks Police

The Metropolitan Police has a budget shortfall of £450m, and the Commissioner is warning of cuts that may end the Royal Parks as a distinctive force.

Heathrow

The prospect of 3rd runway is back on the horizon. Richmond's opposition has been reaffirmed.

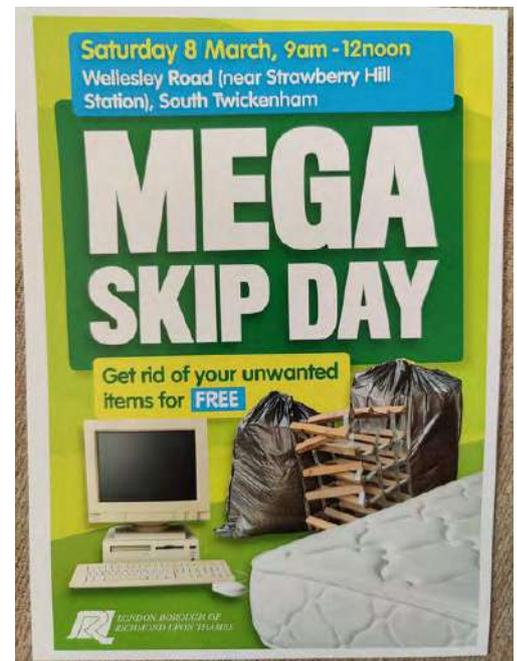
I am looking forward to the Strawberry Hill Summer Picnic on the 29th of June. This year it is very much in collaboration with Strawberry Hill House, and I predict that it will be a great success.

Richard Bennett

Local Issues - 2



Council's Mega Skip in Strawberry Hill



Local Issues

Crime in Strawberry Hill by June Collins, SHRA Treasurer

The last Police Liaison Group (PLG) meeting was held on 9th December, 2024.

South Twickenham comprises Sergeant Jason Hudson, PC Greg Roberts, PC Ivor Roberts and PCSO Kyle Mackenzie. It has been agreed that South and West Twickenham PLGs would become a federation under the Chairmanship of Ray Williams (the current Chair of West Twickenham). Meetings would be split between Waldegrave School (where West Ward currently meet) and the British Legion (where South Ward hold theirs) and would run to four meetings a year. As Sergeant Hudson oversees both Wards it won't be a problem to have a combined meeting. The Councillors are also happy with this.

Below are the latest crime figures (Strawberry Hill is part of the South Twickenham Ward).

Offence	Sept - Nov 2023	Sept - Nov 2024	Change
Burglary	9	4	- 5
Criminal Damage	3	0	- 3
Robbery	4	0	- 4
Theft from M/V	11	4	- 7
Theft of M/V	7	3	- 4
Theft of pedal cycle	9	3	- 6
Non Domestic	11	7	- 4
Domestic	7	8	+ 1
Youth Violence	0	1	+ 1

There has been a significant drop in burglaries. Theft of/from motor vehicles has fallen and theft of pedal cycles has fallen dramatically by six incidents. A resident reported two bike thefts from back gardens, this is reported as theft rather than burglary. The use of Secured By Design website has been advised for steering locks and it has accredited products for security.

<https://www.securedbydesign.com/>

The number of reports for violence has increased and domestic assaults have risen and there is a plus 1 increase in Youth Violence. Domestic figures are up – the Community Safety Partnership does a lot of work in this area and many incidents relate to sports events, the time of year, Christmas etc. As regards youth violence, schools officers are working in schools with young people aged 17 and under.

St. Mary's University has a one-stop shop on Tuesday afternoons giving students more information about youth violence, drug offences and making students aware of what is happening. Police are going to make flyers up to give useful advice specific for St. Mary's students regarding topics such as spiking of drinks.

Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) is also working with Professor Maria Mellins at the Domestic Violence Advice Hub at Hampton. The SNT are working on the priorities raised and are always checking known hot spots for drug dealing, e.g. Carpenters Court, Wellesley Passageway and Edwin Road.

Sainsbury's shoplifting problems continue, despite an approach to shop management by SNT. However, the management of Sainsbury's and other shops experiencing this are being more pro-active now. The offenders then move onto the unprotected shops. Offenders are bailed and back out on the streets. If they are a prominent offender then the police try and get them kept in prison.

Contact information

The point of contact telephone number for South Twickenham (not a reporting number) is 020 7175 9464

X/Twitter address for South Twickenham SNT is [@MPSSTwickenham](#)

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

Protection resources

There is a Faraday protector which is an anti-theft device for cars, see link:

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

Protect your bike from theft and join the UK's national, Police-approved, bicycle-marking-and-registration scheme. www.bikeregister.com

Also, Richmond Safer Neighbourhood Board offers a free crime-prevention visit to residential addresses: email crimepreventionadvice@yahoo.com

Reporting homelessness

You can report people who are homeless to SPEAR (the homeless charity) and they will go out and help them – tel. 0208 288 6506 – <https://www.spearlondon.org/>

The following link is to the Street Safe online reporting APP.

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

Viewing crime figures

The following link allows you to view crimes in your area. Simply put in your postcode. UK Crime Statistics (crime-statistics.co.uk)

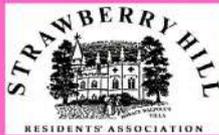
The Association

Carols in the Village



Carols in The Village, Christmas 2024

This year's annual Carols in the Village event was held on Friday 6 December at Wellesley Parade. The event took place against the looming threat posed by Storm Darragh which caused many locals to think twice before venturing out on a dank evening. In the end the storm held off until the event was over. Richmond Brass Band as usual did a sterling job of proving the accompaniment to eight traditional carols. Councillor Richard Bennett opened proceedings at 6.10pm by celebrating the community spirit which the event epitomised. He also thanked all the sponsors who made the event and the Christmas tree possible. Andrew Miller, Chair of SHRA, explained that, while the mulled wine and mince pies were free, we were collecting donations to cover costs and for the Mayor's charities. We were delighted to be able to donate £244 to Richmond MIND and Home-Start Richmond, Kingston and Hounslow. Once again thanks to our sponsors: Architecture WK Ltd – Brewers Decorator Centres – Curate – Everydays Convenience Stores – Jawbone Brewing – Kyzan Hairdressing – LBRuT – Lotta from Stockholm – Mercury Motors – Riverside Supermarket – Sopa Thai Restaurant – St Mary's University – Strawberry Hill Dental Clinic – Strawberry Hill Golf Club – Twickenham Body Health – V3 Group Design & Print.



SHRA SOCIAL EVENING incorporating the Annual General Meeting

*Strawberry Hill Golf Club
Wellesley Road
Thursday 1 May
7pm for 7.30 start*

All residents of Strawberry Hill are members of SHRA and are invited to join us for drinks and finger food

Please let us know if you plan to come & submit agenda items by 17 April email contact@shra.org.uk or just turn up on the night

SHRA AGM – 1 May 2025

This year's AGM will follow the example of last year when it was advertised as 'SHRA Social Evening for Residents incorporating the AGM.' As is the custom, it will be held at Strawberry Hill Golf Club. The evening will start at 7pm with complimentary drinks and a finger buffet with residents able to mingle and talk to members of the Committee and Councillors. We will then segue into the SHRA AGM which is an opportunity to renew the democratic mandate of the Committee and for the Chair to review the year. Last year's AGM was successful in recruiting new members onto the Committee and the evening provides a great opportunity for people who are interested in volunteering with SHRA to learn more about what is involved.

Richmond Brass Band at SHRA Summer Picnic 2024



SHRA Summer Picnic 2024 - Strawberry Hill House

Strawberry Hill Summer Picnic – Sunday 29 June

This Strawberry Hill Summer Picnic is a partnership between SHRA and Strawberry Hill House which will be held on the afternoon of **Sunday 29 June 2025**. There was no picnic last year but previous successful similar events – aimed at families in Strawberry Hill – were held in 2022 and 2023. A variety of music will be played by Richmond Brass Band and children's entertainer, Jolly Julie, will be putting on shows for the children. Children will also be able to use the House's dressing-up box and to follow the 'Fairy Trail' in the woodland walk. People are encouraged to bring their own food & drink to the event which will be a lovely opportunity to picnic in the historic grounds in front of Horace Walpole's Gothic Castle. **Tickets will be available from Strawberry Hill House nearer the time.**



The Association

Diamond Jubilee - SHRA 60th Anniversary



Strawberry Hill Residents' Association – A Brief History Updated

In 2015, Robert Youngs, SHRA archivist, trawled through 50 years of minutes, Bulletins and letters. In 2025, Andrew Miller adds to that history from the past ten years.

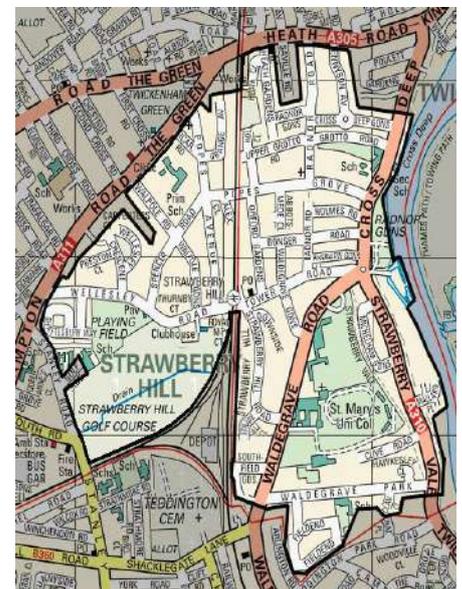
Trunk road threatens to split village

January 1965. Harold Wilson is Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill dies, the Beatles' "I Feel Fine" tops the charts, nine million viewers watch Coronation Street and Geoff Boycott takes 3 for 47 against South Africa. Then on Saturday the 9th, The Richmond and Twickenham Times published an article about a town centre development plan for Richmond, in which new arterial and "primary distributor" roads were proposed to relieve the traffic congestion. In Twickenham, one of these roads would have run from the A316 near Egerton Road, down Grove Avenue and into Strawberry Hill at Radnor Road, which was to be extended to join Waldegrave Road, near its junction with Waldegrave Gardens, and continue on to Broad Street in Teddington.

Widening Radnor Road would have led to the demolition of many homes, and a new extension between Tower Road and Waldegrave Road would have chopped the community in two. Headlines in the following issues of the R&TT said it all: "Houses may come down to make way clear", "Houses on road route are now unsaleable" and "Save our village battle".

Having merged two years earlier, Twickenham and Richmond Council existed only as a "shadow authority" before becoming Richmond-upon-Thames Council. Twickenham Council immediately issued a statement dismissing the plans as "seriously misleading" and complained that it had not been consulted. But Strawberry Hill residents decided to take no chances. They formed a group to oppose the plans and 450 people attended the first General Meeting of the Strawberry Hill Residents' Association on 11th February 1965 in St James' Hall - which, ironically, would probably have been demolished if the plan had gone ahead.

The first officers elected at the meeting included A W Holden (chairman), George R Kerpner (secretary), Cecil G Whithair (treasurer) and June Turner (vice-chair). The Committee's plans and decisions were published as Bulletin No. 1 and residents were encouraged to join the Association for a subscription of 5 shillings (25p).



Once the threat of the new road had subsided, the new Committee turned its attention to other local matters, including aircraft noise, already an issue 50 years ago; increases in domestic rates (75% over the 3 years to 1966 and still the highest in the Greater London area); traffic, parking and excessive development (Fortescue House School) - all topics which regularly concern residents today.

"New blood saves life of society"

This was a headline in the Surrey Comet in April 1985. A proposal to wind up the Association had been tabled at the AGM by the chairman at the time, Ralph Willcocks, because the chairman and secretary planned to step down next year and new officers could not be found. The chairman told the meeting that there had been "lukewarm support for the Committee" and appealed for suitable members to join the committee. Fortunately, a new chairman, Christopher Fraser, was quickly nominated, and the whole Committee was re-elected and members offered their support with Bulletin distribution.

A birthday party for Alexander Pope

In 1988, the committee organised a party to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Alexander Pope's birth. Held in the Waldegrave Suite in Strawberry Hill House, festivities began with an 18th century punch (courtesy of Young's brewery) followed by a buffet supper. Entertainment took the form of readings and music, provided by a wind ensemble from the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall. Three hundred tickets were sold at £11.50 each.



The Association Diamond Jubilee - SHRA 60th Anniversary



Major planning applications opposed

Bulletin 12 , in **May 1969**, noted that planning applications had been submitted for the development of two large pieces of land in the area: the Fortescue House School site, bordered by Wellesley, Hampton and Stanley Road, and the Glenside site, bordered by Walpole Gardens, Spencer Road and Popes Avenue. The first, previously occupied by the Metropolitan & City Police Orphanage and later, Shaftesbury Homes School for Boys, caused Association members serious disquiet about over-development and traffic. Nonetheless, the project was approved in January 1971 and it is now **Shaftesbury Way, with over 100 houses**. The Glenside application, for an indoor sports centre with squash and badminton courts on open land, was refused after the Association objected in what proved to be the first skirmish in a 13-year battle against a series of attempts to develop the site. A subsequent application for more courts was refused in 1978. The final application, in 1982, for housing, was approved by the Planning Inspectorate - but not before the Association had incurred legal costs of approximately £1500 to fight it. The site is now occupied by 28 houses. **Radnor Works** was a small industrial site on the river side of Strawberry Vale, occupied by Arthur T. Gibson, manufacturers of Kinnear Patent Steel Rolling Shutters and Gibson Patent Bi-folding Doors. Applications to develop the site were made and refused in 1971 and 1973. In 1977, despite objections and appeals by the Association, approval was finally granted for **what is now Mallard Place**, with over 50 houses. In 2016, St Mary's University's plans to expand student numbers by 70% over ten years (and which required building on Metropolitan Open Land and demolishing the athletics track), were strongly opposed by SHRA.

But the Association does not routinely oppose applications for development. Following principles laid down in the early 1970s, the Committee only intervenes if requested to do so by members. In all the cases above, there was considerable opposition from the Association's members and barely any supported them.



Fortescue House Orphanage 1907

Subscriptions

The first committee established the annual **subscription at 5/- (25p)**. This was raised to 50p in July 1983 to rebuild its depleted funds after fighting the Glenside development. Three years later, the subscription was raised to £1; then to £3 in 2003 and to £5 in December 2010. From **2020 subscriptions of £10 were 'recommended'** with a £5 'minimum'. These increases are slightly below the rise in the Retail Price Index over the same period. The number of 'paying members' was 400 in March 1969, 630 in June 1974 and nearly 800 in October 1976.

The Bulletin

Since 1965, the Bulletin in paper form was distributed, free of charge to all homes in the area. Committee members wrote the articles and handled the layout, printing and organised distribution. For most of its 50 years, it has been distributed by volunteers, usually within a week of printing, apart from a short and ultimately unsuccessful period in the 1980s when it was distributed with free local papers. Distribution reverted to our more reliable volunteers. Since November 2007, it has been printed in four colours on at least six pages with advertising. The final hard-copy Bulletin was issue 173 in **Spring 2021 and since then the Bulletin has been distributed online**. The decision to go online was taken to save money, help the environment, avoid the need for manual distribution, and to allow the size of the bulletin to be increased.



The Association Diamond Jubilee - SHRA 60th Anniversary



History & heritage

SHRA has always been interested in researching and publishing local history. We were fortunate that in a pre-internet era, a committed former Chair, **Anthony Beckles-Willson** researched and wrote 'Strawberry Hill: A History of the Neighbourhood', now in its fifth edition. **Peter Lamb** researched our **World War 1 soldiers** for the 'Hunt for Heroes' series to commemorate the centenary. In 2019, SHRA launched its house history service and began publishing 'Streetwise', examining the history of particular streets in Strawberry Hill. One of the original objectives of SHRA was to protect and promote our heritage assets. This is why we have keenly supported the work of Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust and Strawberry Hill House, our two most valuable heritage assets.

Promoting community spirit

In 2021, the SHRA Constitution was amended to include a new objective –'to promote community spirit in Strawberry Hill'. This has led to the organisation of various social events to bring residents and Committee members together. These include the Family Picnics at Strawberry Hill House in 2022 and 2023. Our regular monthly litter picks around the Village have also given residents an opportunity to volunteer and make a difference to the area.



Community Spirit in Strawberry Hill

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/Strawberry_Hill_Residents'_Association)

History & Heritage

Strawberry Hill House

By Rebecca Leuw, Head of Marketing and Communications

Exhibitions for Spring / Summer

A SERENDIPITOUS RETURN: LAVINIA FONTANA'S LOST MINIATURE

A remarkable discovery has brought another lost treasure back to Strawberry Hill House after more than a century. This exquisite miniature, once believed by Walpole to be by Bronzino depicting Bianca Capello, has now been attributed to the accomplished artist Lavinia Fontana (1552-1614). It was discovered in a private collection and will be exhibited at the house until 23 April 2025.

VICTORIANS AT STRAWBERRY HILL: THE STERN AND WALDEGRAVE LEGACIES

3rd May - 27th September 2025

A small exhibit exploring a lesser-known chapter in the house's history, when, in the 19th and early 20th centuries, Lady Waldegrave and the Stern family transformed the house into a hub of political influence, artistic patronage, and high society.



Lady Waldegrave at Strawberry Hill (1856-79)

"Strawberry Hill is more like a fairy palace than ever," wrote Lady Frances Waldegrave in 1876. "I now constantly find young people thinking that Horace Walpole made all my pet creations." Gold stars adorned the vaulted ceilings, ivy trailed along cornices, and strawberry leaf curled up the iron staircase. Prime ministers, artists, and royalty flocked to her legendary gatherings, while her masked balls were the most coveted of the season.

The Stern Family at Strawberry Hill (1898-1923)

At the turn of the century, Strawberry Hill began a new chapter under the Stern family. Herman de Stern purchased the estate, and his son Herbert and wife Aimée revived its role as a social hub. The house hosted dazzling garden parties, drawing prime ministers, foreign princes, and high society figures.

You can read more about this exhibit and discover more about this era at www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/victorians/.

Events for Spring / Summer

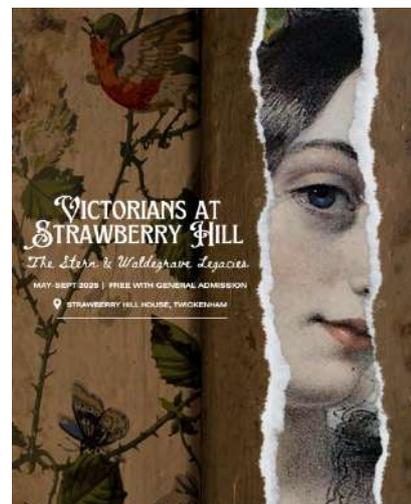
There is a newly released series of Guided Landscape Tours taking visitors on a journey through the history of the garden at Strawberry Hill, learning about its significance in the development of the more naturalistic garden, and its position in the Thames Arcadian Landscape and then onto Popes Grotto, revealing the original structure of the Grotto, along with evidence of water features referred to by Pope and 18th-century visitors. Watch out for a programme of Summer Lates at Strawberry Hill with the chance to tour the house on a summer evening at your own pace followed by Pimm's on the Lawn.

Book at www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/whats-on/

For families we have the **Garden Portrait Trail** running until after Easter, and our new **Faery Trail** debuts this May Bank Holiday, with enchanting faery houses hidden throughout the gardens. On Sunday 29 June we are hosting the Strawberry Hill Summer Picnic with SHRA.

This leads us perfectly to the announcement of our dates for our **Flower Festival** which this year will be running from the **12-14 September**. The theme is The Faery Tale Castle, and we have a new guest curator Gaia Eros working alongside the wonderful Leigh Chappell. Tickets will be going on sale soon so do keep an eye on the site or sign up to receive our newsletter. All this wouldn't be possible without our incredible volunteers. If you'd like to get involved, email volunteer@strawberryhillhouse.org.uk.

We have a new **Exclusive Offer for Richmond Borough Residents – Enjoy 20% off general admission**, simply select this ticket type at checkout.



History & Heritage

The Old Stables in Strawberry Vale House history by Peter Lamb, SHRA local historian

We are fortunate that a history of Strawberry Hill is available in the excellent volume written by Anthony Beckles-Willson in 1991. Under the auspices of SHRA, this has been revised several times, most recently in 2024, the 5th edition. Members of SHRA with an interest in local history continue to delve deeply into the area in bygone times, focusing on specific streets, houses and local people.

Currently we are working on the history of the Old Stables in Strawberry Vale. This delightful U-shaped residence lies on the bend where Waldegrave Park meets Strawberry Vale, and its long narrow garden stretches down to the Thames. The current owners have asked us to look into its past, and this has become a work in progress in which we have identified a number of the past residents and their background, together with some interesting stories.

The Lodge

The site on which the Old Stables now stands was first occupied by a building known as the Lodge. There was a series of buildings on the land along the river side of Strawberry Vale which were for the most part constructed in the 1850s, and the Lodge was the last of these before the boundary with Teddington.

An auction held in 31st October 1871 gives us a picture of how rustic the area was in the 19th century. The Surrey Comet of 21st October 1871 notes that the sale of items from the Lodge estate was of "farming stock and implements, ricks of new and old hay, three cows, a well-bred hunter, two pony traps." The connection of the property to the Thames is manifest in the boating items in the sale; "...a nearly new centre-board sailing yacht with masts, sails, cushions etc, a capital pair-oared skiff in good condition, with oars, sculls and cushions; a punt, landing stage and apparatus..."

In 1876, the Lodge experienced a serious fire. The resident in the Lodge at the time, Reuben David Sassoon, a well know East Indian merchant, was able to escape the conflagration with his family and servants, but the building was gutted from the first floor upward, with extensive damage to the ground floor and basement. The loss was estimated at £2000, a fortune at that time. The Richmond and Twickenham Times on 26th August 1876 gives a full account with some fascinating details:

"... messengers were despatched on horseback for fire engines. The two Kingston brigades being the earliest to be summoned, they were the first to arrive, and after them came the Twickenham men, who, in the absence of horses, had to drag the engines themselves."

in his employ at the Lodge after this incident.

The Surrey Advertiser reported in 1887 that "The Lodge, Strawberry Vale, midway between Strawberry Hill and Teddington Stations" had been sold and an auction of the house's contents was to take place on the premises on 15th November. I have not yet discovered why the entire contents of the house were to be disposed of, but the list of items is prodigious and indicates what must have been a very affluent household. Amongst numerous other things..

'French and Arabian bedsteads' 'handsome drawing-room suite in pollard oak and gilt' '7-octave cottage pianoforte' 'marquetry and other fancy tables' 'two breechloading guns' 'a mahogany centre-board dinghy' and other boating items.'

Devonshire House & The Old Stables

It was around this time that the plot of land was redeveloped. Two buildings were constructed on the site, a fine residence called Devonshire House with a substantial mews with stabling and staff quarters. The latter is what is now the Old Stables.

Devonshire House now belonged to a William Ellerby Green until his death in 1918. It would appear that Devonshire House was his out-of-town residence, as he had another address in London. He was a senior partner in the Longmans publishing company and noted for his generous work with charities, especially hospitals. He helped fund the Victoria Hospital in Kingston where the accommodation was doubled in 1906, and enabled the installation of a complete X-Ray facility. In 1910 his contribution was recognised by the Corporation of Kingston when the freedom of the borough was conferred upon him. In his obituary it was noted: 'He took great delight in his garden at Teddington and during the summer was usually in it before 6 o'clock.' (Devonshire House was right on the boundary with Twickenham). It is understandable that our area was then a semi-rural retreat for people like Green who worked and partly resided in the city. Strawberry Hill has that feel about it.

History & Heritage

The Old Stables in Strawberry Vale House history by Peter Lamb, SHRA local historian

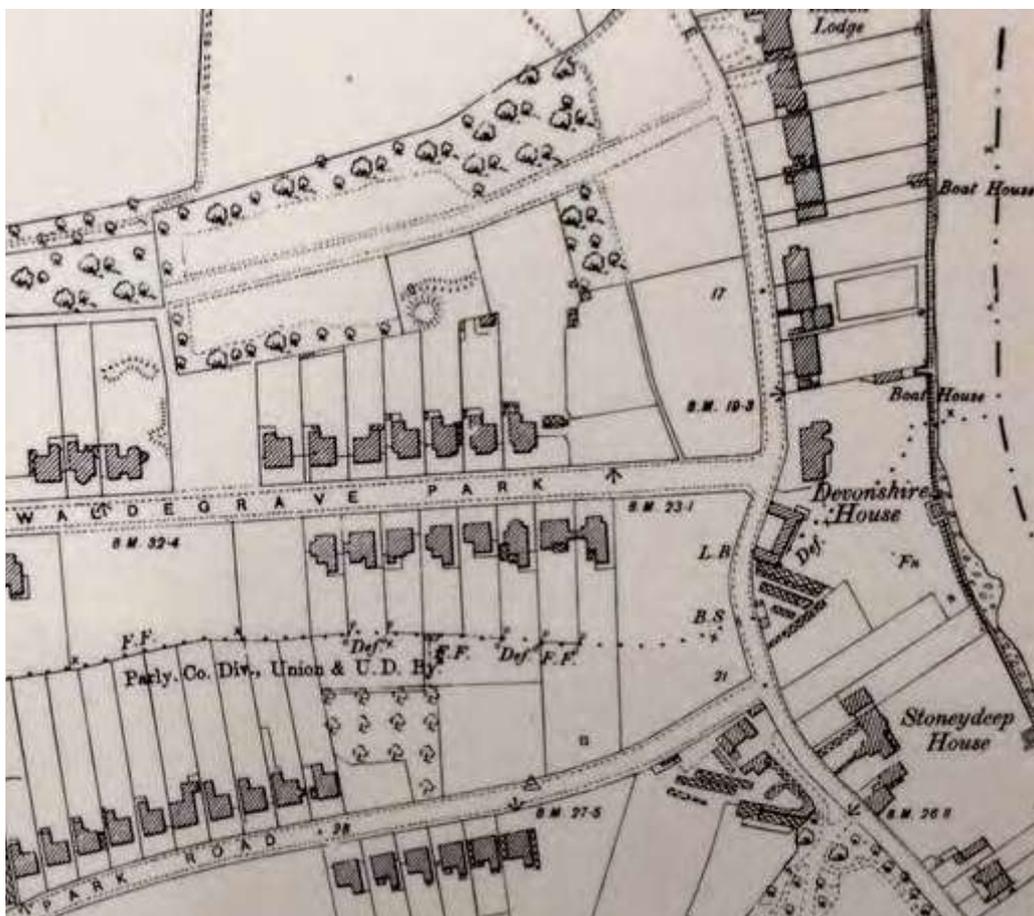
The 1901 census return has Earnest and Alice Carling residing at Devonshire House. W.E.Green was at his London residence when the census was taken, but as Alice Carling is listed as 'caretaker', we can assume that they were living either in the house, or in the stables block, looking after the property when Green was absent. Earnest Carling was involved in a business retailing china and glass. In 1918 the records refer specifically to the Devonshire House Stables. They were both resident on the premises until around 1923 when Devonshire House changed hands.

The new residents at the Stables were Arthur Llewellyn Turner and his wife Emma. Arthur Turner was born in 1882. Interestingly, in the record of his marriage at St Peter and St Paul's Church Teddington in 1911, his profession is stated as being a chauffeur. It follows then that his Great War service record shows him in the Mechanical Transport section of the Army Service Corps where he no doubt developed his skills with motor vehicles. He enlisted in June 1916 and was discharged in August the following year due to sickness. It is notable that in the 1924 and '26 electoral registers, the Stables are referred to as 'The Garage'. At some point, the stables had inevitably progressed from being the domain of the horse and carriage to that of the motorcar, no doubt lovingly and proudly cared for by chauffeur Arthur Turner.

After the death of William Ellerby Green in 1918, his widow Eliza continued to live in Devonshire House until her death in 1923. However, it appears that it also became the residence of Captain St John Barrow Headley, a former officer in the King's Own Light Infantry.

At some point, possibly around 1930, the Turners no longer resided in the Old Stables. In 1930 Devonshire House was divided into two dwellings. The name Devonshire House persisted, but in the division the other part was named St Felix.

Research into this interesting property is continuing and will feature in a later bulletin.



1894 OS Map

St Mary's University

Celebrating 175 years of St Mary's University

As the new year sees new life springing up around campus, St Mary's University looks forward to marking its 175th Anniversary – and its 100th year operating in this corner of Strawberry Hill.

Having achieved full university status in 2014, St Mary's is also now one of the top-rated modern universities nationally. The University is making impactful contributions to public debate and policy in diverse fields from modern slavery and human trafficking – with this significant year also marking the 10th Anniversary of the Bakhita Centre for Research on Slavery, Exploitation and Abuse - to pedagogy, theology and even developing equipment for astronauts to use on the International Space Station.

In March, St Mary's will host the 175th Anniversary Wheelchair Rugby League Festival, which will see a staff team play against a student team, and a combined St Mary's team playing against a London Invitational side. Later in spring, St Mary's will unveil an exhibition celebrating the University's history and heritage through the 175th anniversary year, with plans to later display the same exhibition at Westminster Cathedral.

New developments – E-Sports Arena and School of Medicine

Late 2024 saw the opening of the E-Sports Arena at the heart of the University. This bespoke state-of-the-art facility is designed to fully immerse students and professionals in gaming, training, and research.

In a significant development for the University, the School of Medicine plans to train doctors from 2026. The aim of this School is to integrate advanced medical knowledge with compassionate care and ethical practice – providing human-centred care to make a positive impact on the world.

In November 2024 St Mary's appointed Professor Sonia Kumar as the Founding Executive Dean of Medicine. Professor Kumar has joined St Mary's from the University of Leeds, and previously Imperial College London. She has over two decades experience as a GP and educationalist, specialising in community-based health and education for the benefit of society. Professor Kumar was welcomed into the St Mary's community by Vice-Chancellor Professor Anthony McClaran, who commented: "This is an exciting initiative and strategic priority for the University, which is aligned to our mission to be a forward-thinking University tackling the challenges of the 21st century."

To find out more about the School of Medicine, and receive updates about its development, visit stmarys.ac.uk/medicine/partners-media-community.



St Mary's University - E-Sports Arena



St Mary's University gym

St Mary's University

Short Courses – Strawberry Hill Residents Welcome!

By Helen Barnes, Short Course Administrator

We have a number of courses running over the coming months, most of which have a special 10% discount for our local Strawberry Hill neighbours. You can access via our dedicated neighbours page stmarys.ac.uk/neighbours-discounts which is regularly updated.

Health Coaching

We are thrilled that our next Level 3 Certificate in Health Coaching starts again from 26th April 2025. Health coaching is an emerging and impactful field that blends science, behaviour change, positive psychology and compassionate care to empower individuals to achieve their health and wellness goals. If you're passionate about making a positive difference in preventative healthcare then a career in health coaching is for you. Accredited by the RSPH and approved by the UK & International Health Coaching Association for the purposes of Continuing Professional Development (CPD), this qualification equips you with essential knowledge (including behaviour change models and techniques) and skills to practise as a Health Coach.

Delivered over six modules, the part-time course runs once a week via a combination of online pre-recorded and live sessions, plus three on campus dates. You can book at the discounted rate of £1,170 instead of the usual price of £1,300. We can also offer payment instalments just email shortcourses@stmarys.ac.uk to arrange or if you would like more information on Health Coaching as a career route or a detailed timetable of the course.

Learn to Lift

If you would like to add strength training to your fitness routine our Lean-to-Lift course returns from 23rd April 2025. Running for an hour on Wednesday evenings it will teach you how to safely lift weights and get fit in a friendly, fun and supportive environment. The sessions run in our state-of-the-art Performance Education Centre (PEC) on campus and we have a course for every experience level: Beginner (6-7pm), Intermediate (7-8pm) and Advanced Level Olympic Weightlifting Group (8-9pm). You can book at the discounted rate of £135 instead of the usual £150.

Gut Health and Inflammation

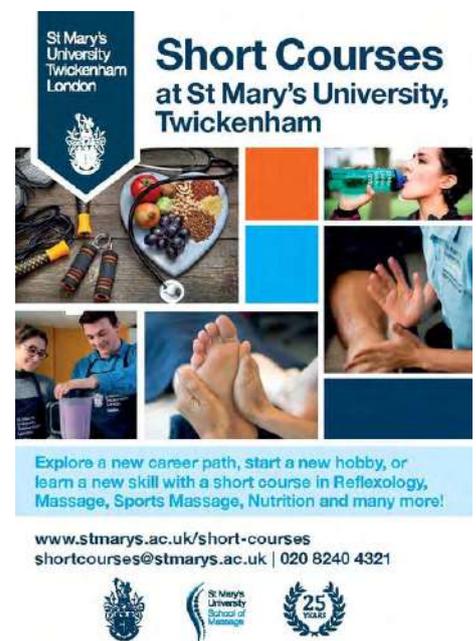
Eating Well, Inflammation and the Gut is an online course that you can take at your own pace with a practical session included in our nutrition kitchen on 15 May (5pm-7.30pm)

St Mary's University has a thriving health sciences department and is well known for its outstanding evidence-based nutrition education. This course will give you an excellent understanding of the increasingly scientific topic of gut health. It will cut through the myths and provide a balanced realistic approach to maintaining a healthy gut. You can book at the discounted rate of £90 instead of the usual £100.

Mental Health First Aid

Mental Health First Aid runs over two sessions on 7th and 8th June 2025 (9am-5pm). Become a Mental Health First Aider® and gain the knowledge, awareness and skills to spot signs of people experiencing poor mental health, and be confident to start a conversation and signpost a person to appropriate support. The course is delivered in person with a MHFA England Instructor Member. You will participate in the course through a mix of instructor-led training, group discussions, individual and group activities. Each session builds on the previous, enabling you to gain confidence in supporting others with a Mental Health First Aid action plan. You can book at the discounted rate of £292.50 instead of £325.

We also offer wider courses in Nutrition, Gym & Personal Training, Reflexology, Massage and Sports Massage and First Aid. Our website is regularly updated and a full list of all our courses is available via <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/short-courses/overview.aspx> or call 020 8240 4321 for more information.



St Mary's University Twickenham London

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St Mary's University Twickenham School of Massage 25 YEARS

Obituary – June Turner Farewell to a SHRA Leading Lady



June Turner with SHRA Honorary Secretary, Pam Crisp in 2015 at the SHRA Radnor Gardens Picnic

We are sad to report the death of **June Turner, a SHRA founding member**, at Atfield House care home in Isleworth on 29 January. The tribute below was written for the 50th anniversary of SHRA in 2015.

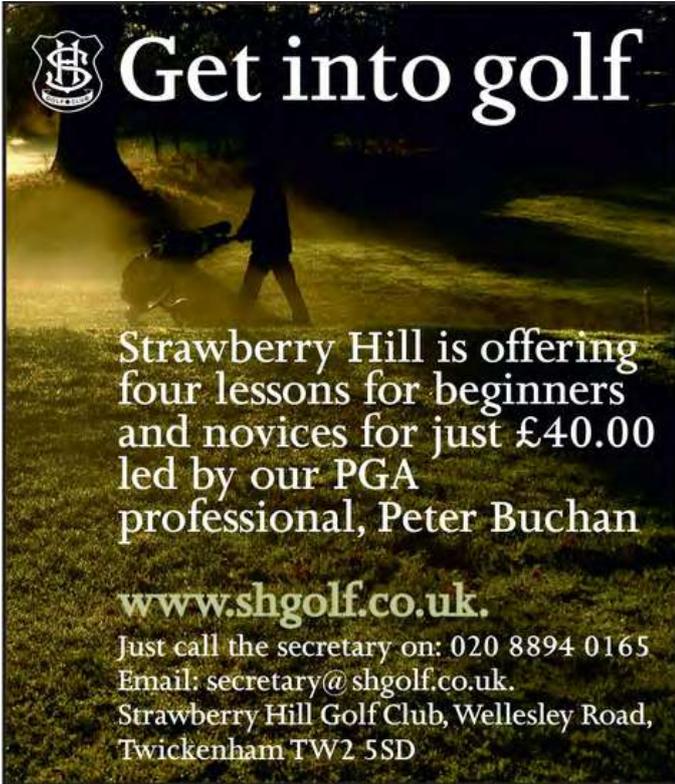
Many people have given their time, ideas and enthusiasm to SHRA over the years, but none more so than June Turner. Without June, Strawberry Hill would have been a very different place to live. As she put it: "Back in 1965 there was a real risk of a four-lane highway being bulldozed through people's homes." Appalled by the idea, June and three friends set up an anti-road committee (the precursor of SHRA), distributed leaflets and posters, and the huge financial support they received at a meeting in St James's Hall promoted them to brief counsel, who successfully fought the road proposal at the public inquiry at York House. Residents realised they could fight for other causes, and so began the 50-year-story (now 60) of SHRA, which still has the task of monitoring planning applications and threats to the neighbourhood.

After a 20-year absence in Africa with her husband Willie, who was in the Diplomatic Service, the Turners were plunged into SHRA affairs on their return – he as Chair between 1993 and 1997. Road safety was always a major concern for the Turners and it was thanks to their campaigning that the Council added the roundabout and "keep clear" markings at the potentially dangerous junction of Tower Road and Cross Deep/Strawberry Vale. They also went to the aid of residents of Orford Gardens and Tower Road, where drivers from elsewhere would park and leave their cars sometimes for weeks on end. Evidence gathered by recording number plates led to the introduction of the CPZ. June said: "Everything changes and some things are beyond the influence of local people. But with determination and organisation, we can all help to preserve and improve our area."

SHRA Directory of Strawberry Hill's businesses

The Directory can be accessed using the following link - www.shra.org.uk/business.

Advertising



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