

## Editor's Introduction

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

The summer of 2025 will go down as one of the hottest on record. In Strawberry Hill it is memorable for being a year of significant anniversaries. It is 15 years since Strawberry Hill House was opened to the public following renovation. SHRA was founded in 1965 as local residents combined to protest against a destructive road-widening scheme. The SHRA Committee decided that our main celebratory event for our 60th anniversary would be the Strawberry Hill Community BBQ & Picnic. This was a partnership between Strawberry Hill House, who provided marketing and ticketing, and SHRA who generated sponsorship to cover the costs of the entertainment – St Margaret's Elastic Band provided the music, while Jolly Julie entertained the children. The Garden Café provided a tasty Argentine-style BBQ. The Strawberry Hill Community BBQ & Picnic on

Sunday 29 June was a terrific family event with over 100 children attending.



The 'Picnic' was also a final act of Zoe Colbeck as Director of Strawberry Hill House. She has left her position for another nearer her home on the South coast. However, we are delighted to report on the appointment of Dr David Gaimster as the new Director. David has thirty years' experience in the museum and heritage sector including at the Hunterian Mu-

seum in Glasgow and the South Australia Museum in Adelaide. We also invite readers to take advantage of a special offer to become members of Strawberry Hill House and, thus, to support our premier heritage asset.

In the last Bulletin we reported on 175 years of St Mary's University and, in this edition, we are pleased to feature an article about the 125th anniversary of Strawberry Hill Golf Club. In 1900, following the closure of Chiswick Golf Club a small group of members, who happened to live in Strawberry Hill, gained permission from local landowners to play golf on the plot.

Finally, a date for your diaries. Friday 5 December is the date of the annual SHRA Carols in the Village event. There will be the usual mix of festive music, carol singing, tree decoration, mulled wine and mince pies. Your SHRA Committee will be starting to plan for this event soon. Speaking of the Committee there are five vacancies for residents to join us, so, if you are interested in finding out more, why not attend our next meeting (Wednesday 8 October at 7pm at St Mary's University) or email us at [contact@shra.org.uk](mailto:contact@shra.org.uk).

**Andrew Miller, Chair, SHRA**

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**Local Issues :** Councillor Richard Bennett, Leader of the Green Group, provides an update on Twickenham Riverside. June Collins reports on crime in Strawberry Hill. [CLICK HERE](#)

**The Association :** We report on SHRA's Annual General Meeting. [CLICK HERE](#)

**Events :** Read about the SHRA 60th Anniversary celebratory event, the Strawberry Hill Community BBQ & Picnic. [CLICK HERE](#)

**Arts:** Fiona Maxwell interviews our own local landscape artist, Peter Lamb. [CLICK HERE](#)

**Heritage & History :** Fiona Maxwell celebrates the 125th year of Strawberry Hill Golf Course. Rosie White introduces the new Director, describes the summer/autumn programme at Strawberry Hill House and provides details of a membership offer. [CLICK HERE](#)

**St Mary's University :** Cindy Croucher-Wright from the SMU short course team describes the latest courses and offers to residents. [CLICK HERE](#)

**Business Pages:** We introduce the Garden Café by Roots & Berries at Strawberry Hill House. [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](mailto:Cllr.r.bennett@richmond.gov.uk)).

#### Twickenham Riverside Project:

The Council's Finance Committee on 25th June approved an increase in the total project cost from the January 2023 estimate of £49.48m to £67.19m and the Council entering into a construction contract for the delivery of the scheme. Demolition works (including the King Street buildings) are continuing until November with the main construction works commencing on 1st December. Completion is scheduled for Autumn 2027.

There have been several events that have contributed to the frustrating delays. The Environment Agency once asked for their views imposed significant design changes for flood management. The Compulsory Purchase Order of Diamond Jubilee Gardens is estimated to have caused a 10 months delay. The Planning approval process took 15 months. Changes to building regulations took effect during these delays necessitating a re-design effort. Finally, there has been the inflationary hit in all building related costs, especially in 2023.

I don't feel that I am alone in having an emotional need to see the Riverside regeneration actually achieved. However, Councillors have a fiduciary duty to be convinced that they are making a prudent financial decision. The accompanying Benefits Assessment is about the social value for the Borough over 30 years. It is based on a Treasury Green Book that facilitates monetising values to a community that are generally not put into budgets.

The core benefits in the Assessment are Land Value Uplift (central estimate £13.8m); Well-being Benefits for New Residents in Affordable Housing (£12.7m); Environmental and Amenity Benefits £13.3m); and Additional Council Tax and Business Rates (£3.69m). There are others such as job creation. I very much hope that these calculations have a sound base in reality. At the moment I am rather baffled, but the Audit Committee will expect to be enlightened!

#### Parking:

The Twickenham Riverside Project has, as a by-product, required that the Fire Brigade are consulted on accessibility issues for fire engines and access to the fire hydrants in roads in the area. They have pressed for removing parking bays. I thought that in these circumstances it is possible that their demands could be overstated and that the Council should challenge them. I believe that a serious effort has gone into addressing these pressures and that, if still painful, they have done the best they can. reasons, but I am keenly disappointed and worried by it. After waiting half a century this is an immediate priority for me.

#### St Mary's University:

The 175th Anniversary of the College's start in Hammersmith and the 100th Anniversary of the move to Strawberry Hill were celebrated with a Service on June 26th. It was certainly an impressive occasion with many dignitaries attending.

Lastly, congratulations on a very successful community picnic.

Richard Bennett

## Local Issues

### Crime in Strawberry Hill

by June Collins, SHRA Treasurer

The last Police Liaison Group (PLG) meeting was held on 18th March, 2025. This was the first meeting of the West and South Twickenham newly federated PLG. South Twickenham is currently up to full strength with: one Sergeant, Jason Hudson; two police officers, PC Greg Roberts and PC Ivor Roberts; and one PCSO, Kyle Mackenzie. PC Sam Parkinson will continue to divide his time between West Twickenham and South Twickenham. The demonstrations in Central London are still taking their toll on the team and with abstractions to Response Team duties with the SNT (Safer Neighbourhood Team).

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

Offence	Dec '23 - Feb '24	Dec '24 - Feb '25	Change
Burglary	5	9	+4
Criminal Damage	4	5	+1
Robbery	1	3	+2
Theft from M/V	4	3	-1
Theft of M/V	3	2	-1
Theft of pedal cycle	2	2	-0
Non Domestic	15	9	-6
Domestic	3	4	+1
Youth Violence	1	1	-0

All reported crime, with the exceptions of burglary, robbery and criminal damage have been reduced. During the winter months, burglaries and robberies have gone up. Domestic violence continues to be an ongoing issue that the Team are working to reduce. PC Roberts and PC Sam Parkinson of West Twickenham continue their VAWG (Violence against Women and Girls) work by attending the Domestic Violence One Stop Shop and Police Café 'one stop shop' at St. Mary's University on a weekly basis.

Shoplifting in the local area is also being targeted. Regular patrols now also include Greggs building site. Police are working with them on security on site, and builders are meant to be adhering to road plans. There seems to be increased amount of activity at night near Greggs recently, plus some cars stolen and some stolen to order. Residents are advised to call 999 straight away if they witness anyone acting suspiciously. There has been a lot of residents' anger about - dangerous lorry drivers, idling of large vehicles, use of disabled parking bays, daily issues, dust, light, vibration – all issues regarding the development of the Greggs Site. Residents felt they were not being listened to and it was suggested that residents needed liaison contacts at the Council in Planning and Transport that they could approach about these issues. The Councillors at the meeting were going to look into this.

The security of bikes at Twickenham Station was discussed, as bikes have been stolen from here. There is CCTV but not enough resources to check through the footage in case of theft. Police encourage people to get their bike registered which they can do at Kneller Gardens All Ability Cycling. A question was raised about what had happened as regards the stabbing incident at Strawberry Hill Station. The Team were going to look into it. The issue of e-bikes and e-scooters was raised - what action could be taken? This is very difficult to deal with as police cannot act on foot and it is very difficult to prosecute. The public need to be educated and informed on the issue and all local schools should get training for children.

There are traffic issues in Tennyson Road and Radnor Gardens due to 'rat running'. However, the Council has done a test for volume of vehicles and the knock-on effects and it only reaches the prescribed limits for 15 minutes in the morning and evening at peak time, so there is not a lot can be done about it.

#### Contact information

The point of contact telephone number for South Twickenham (not a reporting number) is 027 175 9465

X/Twitter address for South Twickenham SNT is @MPSSTwickenham

South Twickenham SNT email address is [southtwickenham.snt@met.police.uk](mailto: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](http://www.bikeregister.com)

Also, Richmond Safer Neighbourhood Board offers a free crime-prevention visit to residential addresses: email [crimepreventionadvice@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://crime-statistics.co.uk))

## The Association

### SHRA Annual General Meeting

Andrew Miller welcomed everyone and said he was delighted to see so many people in attendance for the social evening and AGM of SHRA. He also welcomed PC Gregory Roberts, Councillor Richard Bennett and Claire Leighton and Charlotte Savery from Strawberry Hill House. He also thanked John Tjaardstra who is standing down from the committee as Business Liaison member.

He then highlighted a few strong features of the last year's activities - partnership with Strawberry Hill House; the monthly litter picks; the popularity of our local history book; and Carols in the Village - and thanked our sponsors for their support. The main issue faced by the Committee during the year was the closure of St James Memorial Hall as a community resource and the failure of St James Church and St Catherine's School to address legitimate concerns raised by SHRA. The second ongoing problem was the long drawn-out process of letting the Radnor Gardens café. Andrew raised several issues that the SHRA Committee would be facing in the year ahead: updating the SHRA website; reviewing our health and safety policies; Heathrow's third runway and aircraft noise; relaxation to planning rules; plans to increase the number of non-sporting events at the Allianz Stadium.

### Discussion

Comments on the Chair's report were then invited. A resident of Hollies Close said they have received letters from a developer regarding garages that are adjacent to the allotments next to the Close. She hoped there were no plans to sell off the allotment site. It was noted that the allotment site is protected Metropolitan Open Land. The Chair noted that the redevelopment of the Music Block at St Catherine's School is going ahead but it is hoped that heavy vehicles will use the Grotto Road exit onto Cross Deep rather than the Radnor Road exit.

June Collins gave the Treasurer's Report thanking all residents who subscribe to SHRA and thanking the Fortescue Park Residents' Association who have made a block donation. Sponsorship from local businesses has again been a feature thanks to John Tjaardstra and she thanked St Mary's University and the Alexander Pope for providing a room for committee meetings. June thanked John Naish who has verified our accounts again this year. Approval of the accounts was proposed by Dougal Miller and seconded by David Cornwell.

### Elections

The secretary asked for approval for the re-election of Andrew Miller as chair of SHRA. This was proposed by Sue Youngs and seconded by Robert Youngs. The proposal was agreed. The chair then asked that Mike Allsop, Louisa Carradine, June Collins, Pam Crisp, Sam Kamleh, Peter Lamb, Mary Hughes, Fiona Maxwell, Jonathan Bayliss and Dany Mooney should be nominated to the committee. The following officers to be appointed by the committee: Pam Crisp as Secretary, June Collins as Treasurer. Resigning from the committee - John Tjaardstra. Approval was proposed by Andy Limbrick and seconded by Trish de Villiers. The proposal was agreed.

### Police

P C Roberts gave a brief outline of his career and his area of responsibility. He works closely with the local community including schools and the University. There are many changes forthcoming for the Metropolitan Police Force following budget cuts but there will be two officers in the local Safer Neighbourhood Team. A committee member said that local shops feel vulnerable and need the support of the police. PC Roberts said that the police know many of the local shoplifters and try to ban them from areas to prevent repeat offences. The police are making the prevention of shoplifting a priority.



SHRA Committee Members AGM 2025





## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## The Committee

### Officers

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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](http://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)

## Events

### The Strawberry Hill Community BBQ & Picnic by Andrew Miller



The Community BBQ & Picnic was held on a roasting Sunday afternoon on 29 June in the glorious setting of Strawberry Hill House. It boasted a full house of 297 residents attending 193 adults paying £6 each and 104 children with free entry. The event provided an opportunity to mark the 60th anniversary year of the foundation of SHRA in 1965 and the 15th year in which the House was opened to the public. For SHRA it met two of our objectives of supporting our principal heritage asset and, at the same time, promoting community spirit in our area. The demographic of attendees featured a large proportion of families with young children, and a large number of grandparents and seniors. The event was a worthy successor to the Family Picnics held in 2022 and 2023.

#### Partnership

Unlike its predecessor events this was a full partnership with the House which meant that they were responsible for the sale of tickets and would keep all the proceeds. SHRA, on the other hand, was responsible for finding sponsorship to cover the costs of the entertainment. Thanks to SHRA's terrific local sponsors who were:

[The Alexander Pope Hotel](#)

[Architecture WK Ltd](#)

[Brewers Decorator Centres](#)

[Kyzan Hairdressing](#)

[Lotta from Stockholm](#)

[Mercury Motors](#)

[St Mary's University](#)

[Strawberry Hill Golf Club](#)

[Strawberry Hill Local & Post Office](#)

[Strawberry Hill Pharmacy.](#)



#### Entertainment

Music was provided by a 14-strong contingent from St Margarets Elastic Band who are experienced players at community events. They did not disappoint with their two sets of crowd-pleasing numbers including those appealing to young and old alike. Children's entertainer, Jolly Julie, had the large crowd of young children (with their parents) engrossed with her mix of magic and story-telling. The children participated in the plate-spinning game and raised a large multi-coloured sheet. Strawberry Hill House made their children's 18th century dressing-up rail available and parents enjoyed photographing their offspring in Horace-Walpole-era threads. We were also able to have a free raffle with prizes donated by the Alexander Pope Hotel (a one night stay), SHRA (a £25 M&S voucher) and Trainmaster (a child experience). The Band, Jolly Julie and the bulk of the audience were able to take advantage of the abundant shade provided by the trees in the gardens.

#### BBQ & Picnic

The event was described as a 'BBQ & Picnic' as the Garden Café at the House managed by Roots & Berries staged an outdoor Argentine-style BBQ. Many people took advantage of the delicious fare on offer and the café did very well from food sales and the demand for drinks in the hot weather. At the same time many families chose to bring their own picnic, chairs and rugs.

The event lasted from 3pm until 6.30pm and SHRA stewards had to encourage people to leave at the end as they had had such an enjoyable afternoon. There was minimal clearing up to be done as people took away their own picnic waste. Both partners, the House and SHRA, agreed that the event was a great success and look forward to a probable repeat next year.



## Arts

### Artist in our midst by Fiona Maxwell



Peter Lamb in his studio - 2025

Local Strawberry Hill artist Peter Lamb describes his work as Landscapes, seascapes and dreamscapes.

A recent exhibition of his painting will took place in July from the 15th-27th at The Fountain Gallery 26 Bridge Road, KT8 9HA East Molesey.

Peter exhibited over forty paintings and always relishes the opportunity to share his work and connect with people to discuss the origins of his paintings. He attended the gallery each day during the exhibition and delights in getting to know the people choosing to take his art into their own homes.

Retired languages teacher Peter has spent 41 years as a resident in Strawberry Hill bringing up a family here. A long term member of the SHRA committee he has shared his knowledge as a local historian in many fascinating articles in previous editions of this Bulletin.

Originally a keen cartoonist in his early school days inspired by the 'Mad Magazines' of his youth. At Grammar school Peter's artistic outlet was in creative writing while also illustrating his work.

At University he studied Languages rather than art but took up painting in oils as a form of relaxation. It was sharing a flat in Battersea with an artist friend that later inspired him to explore landscape painting.

Moving to Hamburg to hone his German language skills in the third year of his degree course, Peter experimented with surrealist paintings influenced by the underground rock scene of the era. He now describes this work as haphazard juvenile art, and is happy none of this early work has survived!

Since retiring, Peter has joined and attended many local art groups and courses over the years. One of his influential Tutors being a regular judge on 'Landscape Artist and Portrait Artist of the year'. A member of the Twickenham Arts Circle and the Molesey Arts society he also endorses You-tube as a training and research tool, finding the generous sharing of other artists tutorials a wonderful resource.

His paintings are often inspired by excursions into the countryside where Peter documents potential subjects in a series of photographs. His preference is to work from these references back in his studio. As his canvases are often large and working in oils is a long process, working 'in the wild' as he puts it is not an option!

In fact Peter states that 'a painting is never finished but it eventually has to be abandoned'!

Some influences are signs of ancient activity in the land, such as Hill Forts and other scars on the landscape. The magic of the countryside experienced during hiking expeditions stay in his visual memory with the energy of trees in his words 'invoking his inner hippy'.

Initially Peter painted for himself and the family gradually filling the walls of his Strawberry Hill home with his work. It was at that stage ten years ago that Peter held his first exhibition. He has shown at Arts Fairs, The Landmark arts centre, and this will be his third exhibit at The Fountain Gallery.

Peter has embraced all mediums over the years from pen and pencil drawings, through watercolour and Acrylic but his preference is for oil as 'you can mess about with it'! Although landscapes are his preference he has also experimented with portraits and abstract over the years.

In 2019 Peter created a studio at the end of his garden where he happily spends many peaceful hours creating his art.

So watch out for his next exhibition to view his work, have a chat and support our local artist.



## History & Heritage

### Strawberry Hill Golf Club Celebrating Strawberry Hill's 125th Anniversary by Fiona Maxwell



Strawberry Hill Golf Club is a charming 9-hole parkland course located close to the centre of the Village, a short walk from the Station. It is one of the few UK golf courses accessible by public transport. Its history is fascinating and the preservation of this wonderful local resource and green space benefits the whole community. With mature tree-lined fairways and a stream crossing eight of the nine holes, it can offer a challenging round of golf and is indeed in a picturesque setting. Many local Strawberry Hill residents enjoy belonging to this friendly and accessible club and have become lifelong members. Some members move from active players to social membership, where the clubhouse provides a hub for their social life.

#### Foundation

Founded in 1900, its origins stem from the closure of Chiswick Golf Club which was sold for development. A small group of Strawberry Hill residents who often played at Chiswick took it upon themselves to find an alternative place to play. Henry Robert Fergus who lived at Milton House in Wellesley Road identified 27 acres of grasslands with a brook, trees and stables owned by the Freake Estate company. Initially they were given permission to play golf there with all the natural hazards, such as sheep hurdles, and no formal greens or bunkers, which must have made for some interesting games.

This arrangement was formalised a couple of years later with an agreement to lease the land to create a golf course and establish a local club. J H Taylor, the first president of the Professional Golf Association, was then engaged to advise on the design and layout, creating the 9-hole parkland course. In 1902 contracts were formally signed with the Freake Estate granting an annual lease to the club. At this time, it is recorded that the club had 180 members (115 Men and 65 Ladies), and visitors could play for 1 shilling a day. In 1910 consent was given to construct a club house at a total construction cost of £260.

The Freake Estate sold the land in 1927 to the Metropolitan Police who also ran a local children's orphanage known as Wellesley House on Hampton Road. They remained the landlords until 1936 when the course was purchased jointly by Middlesex County Council, Twickenham Borough and Teddington Urban District Council. During this time the Club had little security of tenure and was under constant threat of eviction. It was saved only by the efforts and support of the members.

#### World War II and beyond

In World War II the club was again able to survive with the support of its members and was also used as a training ground for the Home Guard! During this time competitions were played between the Teddington Police and US forces which were stationed in Bushy Park.

#### Key dates

- In 1946 the club was affiliated to the Middlesex County Golf Union.
- Celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the club were held on July 24th 1950 in the form of a parade, a day of competitions and an evening supper dance.
- In April 1971 the Title of the course was transferred from Middlesex County Council to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, the current landlords.
- In 1983 a clubhouse was opened with improvements to the bar, kitchen and changing rooms. The cost of this project was covered almost entirely by the membership.
- A new constitution was agreed in 1998 confirming equal rights at Strawberry Hill for male and female members.
- The centenary in 2000 saw a week of celebrations and a commemorative Oak tree being planted by our local Mayor.

#### July events

As part of the ongoing 125th anniversary celebrations the club will stage the following events during July:

##### Thursday 3 July

Women's Captain's 125 Charity Day. An extra special focus for a great cause.

##### Saturday 12-Sunday 27 July

125 Golf competitions: Captains organising teams.

##### Sunday 13 July

125 Hickory Club demonstration and competition event. An opportunity to see how golf was played in the club's formative years and to take part using period equipment.

##### Saturday 19 July

125 Family Picnic on the course with music & entertainment. A fabulous event planned for families to enjoy our unique oasis in West London, with food & drink!

##### Tuesday 22 July

125 Team Open. Invitation golf event to include teams from other Clubs in Middlesex and Surrey. Captains will organise this event.

##### Friday 25 July

125 Anniversary Ball at The Lensbury Club with live band. A grand ball to end grand balls.

##### Sunday 27 July

125 Fun Golf Event and BBQ. Building on the traditions of Strawberry Hill as a friendly family golfing venue, we will be arranging the best family fun with a BBQ.



## History & Heritage

### Strawberry Hill House

by Rosie White, Marketing and Communications Officer

#### Introducing Dr David Gaimster, new Director of Strawberry Hill House and Garden

The Strawberry Hill Trust is delighted to welcome Dr David Gaimster as its new Director. With a distinguished career spanning over 30 years in museums and heritage, David has led major institutions in the UK, New Zealand, and Australia—including the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow and the South Australian Museum in Adelaide.

David is well known for his commitment to making historic collections accessible, inclusive, and internationally relevant. As General Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of London, he led the renovation of Burlington House and co-curated the landmark exhibition *Making History: Antiquaries in Britain 1707–2007*. In his words: *"Strawberry Hill is one of the most inspiring sites in the UK—if not global—cultural heritage. I'm thrilled to help shape its future."*

Chair of Trustees, Anthony Nash, added: *"David brings immense experience. His appointment will help secure Strawberry Hill's financial sustainability and broaden its reach in these challenging times."*

We look forward to entering this exciting new chapter together.

#### Henry VIII's Lost Ottoman Dagger: A Royal Mystery Unveiled

2nd November 2025 – 2nd February 2026

Curated by Dr Silvia Davoli, Strawberry Hill House and Carmen Holdsworth-Delgado, The Garrick Club.

This autumn, Strawberry Hill House hosts a major international exhibition exploring the fate of a dazzling Ottoman dagger once owned by Horace Walpole and believed to have belonged to Henry VIII. Lost after the 1842 Great Sale, the dagger will be traced through clues in theatre history, gemmology, and European royal collections. Highlights include two related daggers from Welbeck Abbey and Vienna, reunited for the first time.

#### Flower Festival 2025: The Faery Tale Castle

12–14 September, 9am–4pm

Our award-winning Flower Festival returns this September with a magical new theme: The Faery Tale Castle. Over 50 leading florists will transform the House into a living storybook inspired by faery legends and British folklore. Curated by Gaia Elkington and Leigh Chapell, and using only homegrown, sustainable blooms, this enchanting event promises giant spiders, goblin markets, and spinning wheels among the flowers.

#### Pasadena Roof Orchestra – Open-Air Concert

24 August, 6–9pm

Don your best vintage attire and join us in the garden for an unforgettable summer evening of 1920s–30s jazz and swing. Bring a picnic or pre-order from Roots & Berries. A limited number of tickets are available now—early booking advised.

#### Strawberry Hill House Membership Offer for SHRA and Local Residents

As a registered, independent charity relying on self-generated income, the support from the local community is crucial to Strawberry Hill House, which is why we would love you to be part of our future. We value our close relationship with local residents and would like to welcome you to celebrate our anniversary year with us by offering you reduced price Membership with a discount of £10.

Members enjoy: supporting the preservation of the House & Garden for future generations; unlimited free entry to the House (with the exception of the Flower Festival); a lively programme of events; and discounts on a selection of events.

To enjoy a £10 discount on Membership (which starts from as little as £35 with the discount), simply use the discount code – **SHRA25** – when purchasing online (valid until October 2025).

<https://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/support-us/membership/>

To book tickets or find out more, visit:

[www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/whats-on](https://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/whats-on)



Ottoman Dagger, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna



Pasadena Roof Orchestra Poster - 2025



Strawberry Hill House Flower Festival 2025

## St Mary's University

### Short Courses – Strawberry Hill Residents Welcome by Cindy Croucher-Wright, 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](https://stmarys.ac.uk/neighbours-discounts) which is regularly updated.

#### German for Beginners

We are excited to announce that we are now offering [German for Beginners](#), starting from 6th October 2025. If you are passionate about expanding your linguistic knowledge or simply learn a new language from the very beginning – then the German for beginners course is for you. Whilst on the course, you will build your knowledge and understanding of vocabulary and grammar and develop your communication for practical purposes. This includes greetings, describing yourself, ordering food & drinks and much more. The part-time course runs on Monday evenings from 5:30-7:00pm on-site on our main campus. You can book at the discounted rate of £229.50 instead of the usual £255.

We also offer a follow-on German Beginners course which will run from **February 2026**. This course is a natural progression and will allow you to continue to develop your skills and build upon your learnings from the October course.

#### Learn to Lift

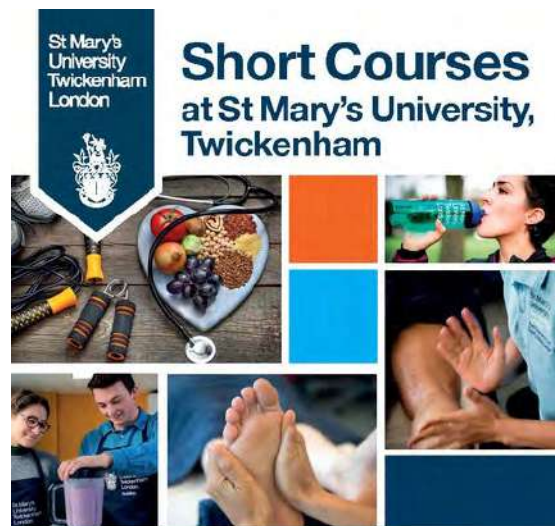
If you would like to add strength training to your fitness routine our [Learn-to-Lift](#) course returns from **8th October 2025**. Running for an hour on Wednesday evenings it will teach you how to safely lift weights and get fit in a friendly, fun and supportive environment. The sessions run in our 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 £140.40 instead of the usual £156.

#### Reflexology for Complementary Therapist

We are thrilled that our next [Level 3 Diploma in Reflexology for the Complementary Therapist](#) starts again from **21st September 2025**. Our London-based Reflexology course is run part-time with 17 sessions held once a week over a five-month period. The course covers three main modules of reflexology, anatomy & physiology, and business practice for complementary therapies – providing a great foundation to build upon and would provide many career opportunities.

You can book at the discounted rate of £1,575 instead of the usual price of £1,750. We can also offer payment instalments, just email [shortcourses@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:shortcourses@stmarys.ac.uk) to arrange or if you would like more information on Reflexology as a career route or a detailed timetable of the course.

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.



**Short Courses**  
at St Mary's University,  
Twickenham

Explore a new career path, start a new hobby, or learn a new skill with a short course in Reflexology, Massage, Sports Massage, Nutrition and many more!

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## Local Business

### The Garden Café, Strawberry Hill House

by Fiona Maxwell

Tucked away in the gardens of Strawberry Hill House is The Garden Café which is part of the Roots and Berries family of London-green-spaces cafés. The company ethos is to serve the community by providing relaxed quality local eateries in unique-and-historic, park-and-garden settings. The Garden Café occupies the Great Cloister at Strawberry Hill House with a terrace looking out over the 18th Century Garden of Horace Walpole's Little Gothic Castle. Paying a visit to the Garden Café is indeed a delightful experience.

#### The manager

Set in the heart of Strawberry Hill the café in this peaceful enclave is open all year round from Saturday to Wednesday, 9am – 4pm and is open 7 days a week during school holidays. The manager, Anthony Brown, has been running the Café for a year and a half and was previously at the Stables Café at Orleans House in Twickenham. With 23 years in the catering business Anthony runs the café as a family affair with his wife who is the chef in the kitchen, and their son serving front of house with his Dad.

The café is child friendly with a safe garden space for children to run and burn off energy and well-behaved dogs on leads are also welcomed. There is even a friendly visiting heron that Anthony feeds, much to the customers delight.

#### What's on offer?

The café offers barista coffee from Curious Roo Coffee Roasters in Chiswick and tea from the Bellevue Tea Company. Light lunches are freshly prepared in the kitchen and cakes, cookies and scones for a cream tea are baked daily at the Roots and Berries bakery in South West London.

The Roots and Berries special Afternoon Tea is now available to enjoy in the beautiful surroundings of The Garden Café. With scones and other baked goods made fresh to order it is a lovely idea for a celebration but needs to be booked three days in advance. You can choose a Classic Afternoon Tea or the Vegetarian Garden Afternoon Tea menu, served on traditional tiered tea stands, accompanied by a variety of freshly brewed loose-leaf teas from around the world. The price includes complimentary refills of tea. Pre-order @ £24 per person.

The Garden Café is also licensed with a range of wines (including organic), craft beers, or enjoy some bubbles or a Hayman's Gin and Fever Tree tonic.

Picnics can also be provided to order when there are special events running at Strawberry Hill House. Catering for special occasions and private hire can be arranged through the Strawberry Hill House events team. For The Strawberry Hill Community BBQ and Picnic on June 29th in the gardens of Strawberry Hill House, Roots & Berries ran an Argentine-style Charcoal BBQ at The Garden Café.

If you haven't yet discovered this delightful local venue I urge you to stroll over on a sunny afternoon and soak up the atmosphere. You are assured of a warm welcome by Anthony and his team.

[Rootsandberries.co.uk](http://Rootsandberries.co.uk)



Anthony Brown & Team  
The Garden Cafe


SHRA Directory of Strawberry Hill's businesses

The Directory can be  
accessed using the following link -  
[www.shra.org.uk/business](http://www.shra.org.uk/business).



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