

Representing the views of all who live in the historic Thames-side village of Strawberry Hill

#### No. 150 Winter 2012

## A new choir heralds Christmas tree unveiling

new choir, the Strawberry Singers, will celebrate the unveiling of the village Christmas tree on Friday 14th December.

Based in Strawberry Hill House, where the choir rehearses, they will sing traditional carols, as well as more popular numbers. Weather permitting, they might also bring a piano. (See 'Choir spans Verdi to show tunes' on page 3)

Local children are invited to help decorate the tree at 6 p.m. The unveiling and carol singing starts at 6:30 p.m. at Wellesley Parade.

## Radnor Gardens war memorial restored

The annual Radnor Gardens Remembrance Day Parade and Service took place on Sunday November 11th in perfect weather. The service was attended by Dr Vince Cable, MP, Cllr. Lisa Blakemore (Deputy Mayor), Cllr. Clare Head (South Twickenham Ward Councillor and Chair of the Friends of Radnor Gardens) and other dignitaries.



#### Cllr. Head and the replacement plaque

This was the first Parade since one of the three original plaques on the war memorial was stolen in October last year. Funds for the bronze replacement, a perfect copy, were raised by the RFU, readers of the Richmond and Twickenham Times, with many private donations. Security cameras are now trained on the memorial to prevent further thefts. The tree lights will be switched on by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Lisa Blakemore.

While mince pies and mulled wine are dispensed free, (soft drinks for the children), a collection will be made in support of the Roy Kinnear Home in Waldegrave Road.

Wellesley Road, and the parking bays in front of the shops in Wellesley Parade, will be closed for the occasion on the previous evening. Richmond Council will onate up to £500 towards the cost of the event.

## Carols and snow on the Green

All are welcome to join the Friends of Twickenham Green at their Village Fayre from 6 p.m. on Sunday December 16th.



Twickenham Green in the snow - a postcard from the early 20th century, courtesy of Heather and Geoffrey Morgan

The evening will start with candlelit carols around the Green led by several of the local churches and the Salvation Army. This will be followed by the lighting of the first Christmas tree on the Green, outside Arthur's, and all sorts of festive fun including mulled wine, mince pies, hot chocolate, more carols, children's rides and a few surprises. The Friends say that snow is guaranteed (well, 99% guaranteed).

Supporters include Churchill Retirement Living, Friends of Twickenham Green, Thamesians RFC, Arthur's, Lovers Lights Gallery and many other local businesses and residents. Please do join The Friends and get in the mood for Christmas.

## In this issue...

Just in case you're at a loose end this Christmas, our own Carol Service is back, there's a Village Fayre on the Green and Strawberry Hill House has a comprehensive range of events for children and adults, including the premiere of a play by Strawberry Hill's own playwright (page 3).

We've also got articles on that splendid charity, Age UK, Moore's Cycles and an almost-forgotten piece of our history - The Strawberry Hill Riots of 2000.

The Twickenham Alive Film Festival is coming soon. While we can't compete with Cannes, and the chilly Embankment is hardly La Croisette, Twickenham has a long history of film making, so it does seem appropriate. There's an interview with the organisers on the back page.



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## Planning matters

#### **Strawberry Hill House**

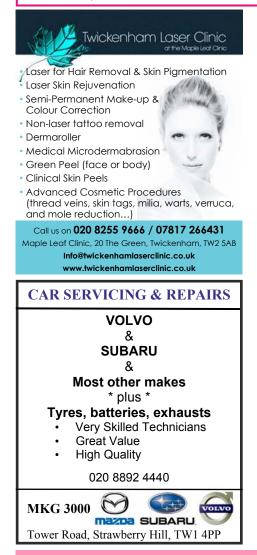
To ease pressure on Strawberry Hill House, the Trustees have applied for planning permission for a new singlestorey building in the grounds at the back of the existing car park.

This will provide facilities for the garden staff and a small visitor orientation area containing display boards with information on the House as well as visitor toilets and lockers. Given the historic importance of the House and garden, it is designed to be as low as possible to settle into the landscape and it will be of timber construction clad with cedar boarding using roof lights rather than windows.

A new visitor approach to the House is also planned from the new building reestablishing a tree-arched lane which was the former road to Hampton Court in Horace Walpole's time.(Ref. No. 12/2948)

#### **MKG 3000**

The management of MKG 3000 has submitted a revised planning application for the re-development of the corner of their property (formerly Harji's shoemenders) and for a new facia for their



existing workshop. The major difference from the previous application is a reduction in the height of the proposed flat over the old shop, which will become offices. (Ref No 12/3446)

## College opens Chapel view

**R**esidents of Waldegrave Road have supported a planning application by St Mary's University College to open a new pedestrian access between the main entrance and the white gates entrance. Approval follows consultation by the College. The purpose of the access is to open up the view of the College Chapel from Waldegrave Road.

Michael Allsop, SHRA representative to the College, says: "We looked at the plans and viewed the site. I am in no doubt that this will add a very attractive view into the College grounds, although it will mean the demise of one or two trees."

The changes will also improve access to, and visibility of, Horace Walpole's Chapel in the Woods *(see below)*, which lies immediately to the right of the proposed new entrance. (Ref. No. 12/2936)

# The Chapel in the Woods

and a (tenous) connection with Nelson

In a letter to the Rev. William Cole in 1771, Horace Walpole wrote: "I am building a small chapel too in my garden to receive two valuable pieces of antiquity." Shortly after, he commissioned Thomas Gayfrere, Master Mason to Westminster Abbey, to create what is now known as the Chapel in the Woods, completed in 1773.

In 1774, Cole visited Walpole and recorded that it contained the tomb of Capocci, a 13th c. martyr, which was originally in Sta Maria Maggiore in Rome. It was sent to him by Sir William Hamilton, Ambassador to the Kingdom of Naples, enthusiastic collector of antiquities and, later, husband of Emma Hamilton, lover of Admiral Nelson. The other antiquity was a piece of medieval stained glass which Walpole had removed from St Peter's Church, Bexhill, now happily returned.

The Chapel fell into disrepair after Walpole's death in 1797, but it was restored by Countess Waldegrave during her tenure of the House in the mid-19th century.

Originally intended to be part of a serpentine walk from the House, it became separated by the College buildings when they were constructed in the 1950s.

It is to be hoped that visitors to the House will be encouraged to walk along the road to view the Chapel in its new setting.

## Leon says, "always wear a lid"

While he is a newcomer to Strawberry Hill, Leon Moore has long connections with Twickenham: he runs Moore's Bicycles in London Road. Cycling is booming, but Leon has a cautionary tale to tell.



Leon with a fashionable, old-fashioned Pashley racing bike

"As is often the case on a balmy summer's evening (though maybe not quite so often this year), all the members of staff go for a ride after work, usually ending up in a pub.

"One evening we were riding through Strawberry Hill and were stopped in our tracks by the railway crossing barriers. Having waited a while, one of our party (Harold) decided he would try and run over the footbridge carrying his bike cyclocross style on his back.

"I should add at this point that he had managed to do one night's training with Twickenham Cycling Club, so fancied himself as a cyclocross veteran.

"He bolted up the stairs just as the barriers were lifting; we could hear the doff-doff of his road cleats on the walkway as we rode across the tracks.

"As we were level with the exit, we saw Harry slip and his legs flew out from under him, he crashed down hard at the bottom of the stairs with 19.8 pounds of finely-engineered metal following him gracefully through the air and the inevitable happened: the bike hit him firmly on the back of his helmet as he stared at us in shock and disbelief.

"Naturally, this was met with a full round of raucous laughter and a light smattering of horrible derisory comments with no regard paid to his wellbeing whatsoever.

"When this had calmed down, we checked if he was OK. He was, but the £129.99 helmet had a clean 3cm split at the back. After much deliberation, we decided maybe this was the perfect opportunity to make a beeline for the pub.!"

Moral: Always wear your helmet, even when you're going down a flight of stairs!

# **News from Strawberry Hill House**

There's a lot going on at the House in the run-up to Christmas, even though the visitor season closed on October 31st. Meanwhile the House gets down to maintenance and cleaning in preparation for Spring 2013.

## Countdown to the festive season

Jenny Eynon, Property Operations Manager reports.

Throughout November, Strawberry Hill House shop will open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, between 11.30 and 4.30, for Tour Groups and Christmas Shopping.

The shop and house will also be open as usual for the first three Sundays in December.

### **Strawberry miniatures**

A display of miniatures formerly at Strawberry Hill can be seen at an exhibition at the Sir John Soane's Museum at 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields. The exhibition is called 'Giving our past a future - the work of the World Monuments Fund in Britain'. Entrance is free and the exhibition is open until January 26th. The exhibition covers work at Stowe, St George's Bloomsbury and the current project on medieval glass from Coventry, as well as Strawberry Hill.

### Christmas at Strawberry Hill House in December

House open on Sundays December 2nd, 9th and 16th: Timed tickets for selfguided tours are available on our website.

*'The Last Great Lady':* A Promenade Play for Strawberry Hill running from **December 7th to 19th** (see right).

Flower and Wreath Making Master Class: December 1st: See demonstrations in the morning before attempting your own unique floral displays for the festive season. With local florist Divine Flower Company.

Gothic Goblets (for children): December 2nd: Taking inspiration from the House, paint a Gothic Goblet fit for a banquet!

Gift Wrapping Master Class: December 8th: Join international expert Arona Khan for a hands-on, fun-filled day of gift wrapping in preparation for Christmas. Impress friends and family all year round with the techniques you will learn.

Victorian Paper Crafts (for children): December 9th: Join us to make Christmas lanterns, marble wrapping paper and paper chains to take home and decorate your tree!

For detailed information on all these events, to book tickets, and to check shop opening hours, visit:

www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk

## Stormy life of a great lady

Local playwright Dianne Cutlack has written a second play for Strawberry Hill House and learned some lessons, as she explains

**44 T**he Last Great Lady is my second play for Strawberry Hill in a promenade format, taking the audience on a journey through the house as the action progresses. We've built on the experience we gained from the first play last March, *The Sign of the Strawberry*, to give the audience a memorable time in a beautiful house, some of whom will not have visited before.

"Changes from last time: there will be less standing, more sitting. There will be two Saturday matinées, as well as evening

performances. The café will be open for full meals and snacks before each performance, and, as before, a bar will be in operation.

"A feature which delighted everyone last time - the dance - will again be part of the play, this time a Victorian ball.

## Intrigue and scandal

"For this play we've fast-forwarded from Regency to Victorian England, and focussed on the woman whose name still resonates in this area, Lady Frances Waldegrave.

"Frances was responsible for rescuing Strawberry Hill from dereliction and making it a fashionable weekend retreat for the elite of London society. She intrigued and scandalised all of London with her four marriages.

"The challenge here has been to create an absorbing story based on her public and private lifes, which involved considerable cost to her early marriages. which could only be described as stormy.

"Her final, extremely happy marriage was sadly curtailed. All this is examined in *The Last Great Lady*.



An evening view of the East Front (Kilian O'Sullivan)



Frances, Lady Waldegrave is portayed by Polly Smith in Dianne Cutlack's latest promenade play

"I have a wonderful cast on this production, including Polly Smith as Frances Waldegrave and Leigh Stevenson, who played Horace Walpole in the last play. I hope the audience will be as intrigued by Frances Waldegrave's remarkable life as I am."

*The Last Great Lady*, a play for Strawberry Hill, 7th to 19th December. Evening performances at 7:30 p.m.. Saturday matinees, December 8 and 15, at 1 p.m..

Tickets (at £25) are available through Strawberry Hill:

www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk

# Choir spans Verdi to show tunes

The newly-formed Strawberry Hill singers were very nearly called the Walpole Warblers, says choir secretary Claire Leighton. "That's because a large number of them work at Strawberry Hill House or are connected with it."

The choir was founded by Michael McLoughlin, choir master, nearly a year ago. There are 47 members of the choir, coming from most corners of the Borough and their repertoire is wide, from Verdi to modern show tunes.

"We won't only sing carols at the Christmas tree unveiling," says Claire. "There will be some popular Christmas songs, too."

Most weeks the choir rehearses in the House, where they have also given concerts. While the choir numbers are encouraging there are still one or two places available, says Claire. "We could do with a few more men, especially basses and tenors."

Administration is important, too. "We couldn't function without Fay Hunter, our music monitor, who works so hard providing us with sheet music," says Claire.

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## A quiet, but busy, force for good

In the last year 235 elderly people living in Strawberry Hill have been helped by Age UK.

Mike Phelps, former chairman who lives in Strawberry Hill, says: "You might not think that an affluent village like ours would require help from Age UK, but there are indeed some elderly people in need. They are often too proud to ask for help, yet when it arrives it makes an enormous difference to their lives."

Run by Sandra Morrison and a board of volunteer trustees from her head office in Sheen Lane, the charity is surprisingly large, with a staff of 25 plus 134 volunteers.

Sandra has been CEO of Age UK for eight years. Turnover this year will top £1 million, with most of it coming from contracts with Richmond Council.

Sandra explains that the role of Age UK spans a lot of different jobs - all of them very practical. "The charity's helpline is often the first contact for advice or to kick-start real help."

The span of practical support is impressive. The Handyperson service does just what it says: provides assistance for elderly and disabled people with all those small, but important tasks, that might only take a handyman minutes, such as changing light bulbs, fitting grab rails, moving furniture, loft clearance or fitting a key safe so that health visitors or cleaners can let themselves in.

### Charges

Not all services are free. "We usually charge £35 for up to two hour's work," says Sandra, "but we use discretion where the time is much shorter."

Many elderly people are lonely. The opportunity to talk to another human being is provided by Telephone Befriending. If you know someone who could benefit, call 0845 601 1149, or they might appreciate Introducers



(all of them are CRB checked) to help newcomers or isolated people to discover new places and social contacts.

Age UK even runs computer courses. From that it is a small step to joining one of the e-mail discussion groups.

As well as appreciating donations, Age UK is always looking for people with special skills. They can be as diverse as Silver Screen Volunteers, who can share their love of old films and musicals, to people with financial, marketing and computer know-how.

And did you know that Age UK runs social centres in Twickenham, Barnes and Whitton where the elderly can attend courses?

Sandra adds: "Money is always important, but the personal contribution and contact which so many elderly people need is of even greater importance."

## How Age UK works locally

Sandra cites the example of Mrs W (identity not revealed) who called Age UK's First Contact Helpline for advice.

"She lived alone and suffered back pain and breathing difficulties and had trouble sleeping. Her mattress was very old, but she could not afford a new one. We arranged for a benefits advisor to visit her."

The result of the visit was rapid: Mrs W was awarded an attendance allowance of  $\pounds71.40$  a week and her pension credit was increased by  $\pounds53.65$  a week.

"We applied to two local charities on her behalf for financial help," adds Sandra. "She received a grant of  $\pounds 300$  to buy a new mattress and  $\pounds 360$  towards fuel costs."

As a result of that call to the Age UK Helpline, Mrs W's income increased by £125 a week and her quality of life improved greatly.

Mrs W said: "One phone call to Age UK changed really my life."



## SHRA declines role for the Green

Close neighbour Twickenham Green has turned down an invitation by Richmond Council to take over responsibility for the recreational space.

The invitation came by way of a Council plan to ask Friends, groups and others to manage parks and open spaces. Strawberry Hill Residents Association was among those approached by the Friends of Twickenham Green with a view to sharing the responsibility. The committee of SHRA declined involvement.

At an extraordinary general meeting, The Friends voted not to take over the management of The Green themselves.

Charles Owens, a member of the committees of both SHRA and FoTG, says: "Members of the Friends lean to maintaining the status quo and continuing to act as friendly advisors to whoever should manage The Green in the future. We will supply positive support, such as contributing to buying articles like memorial benches and notice boards, backing the new Christmas event and running the Village of Twickenham Green Fête."

Mr Owens adds that the council has not provided detailed information as to how management of the Green would be financed or how much it currently costs to run. Thus it was impossible to be sure as to future developments.

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Sandra Morrison

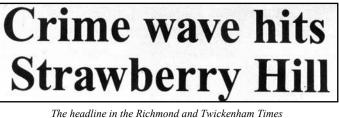
## How we were, what we thought: **The Strawberry Hill Riots**

In the first of a new series of articles, our archivist has been leafing through old copies of newspapers and the Bulletin and writes about the Strawberry Hill riots of 2000

#### ur village has one of the lowest crime rates in the Metropolitan Police Area but in 2000 there were a number of serious disturbances which have not, fortunately, been repeated since then.

On the 9th June 2000, the front page of the Richmond and Twickenham Times carried the headline "Crime wave hits Strawberry Hill." The article described how "riot police were called to a residential road in Strawberry Hill after a man was stabbed near council-owned

flats, fuelling fears of a growing crime wave .... The attack has reinforced fears of an escalating crime problem surrounding the block of one-bedroom council homes, though residents are not known to be involved." It went



disturbances are prevented."

and our MP.

on to report "swearing, shouting fighting and intimidating passers-by" as well as groceries and alcohol being stolen from the newsagents in Wellesley Parade.

Two weeks later, the paper reported that the Council had denied poor housing policy was to blame. No-one was arrested in connection with the disturbances, which centred around Shelley House and No 11 Strawberry Hill Road.

Bulletin 115, published in August 2000, carried the following article:

"Many of us were appalled by the very sudden spate of late night drinking, joy-riding in a stolen car, looting from the village shops and fisticuffs several nights running at the end of May.

"We were grateful to the Police for rapid reaction to the problems and to the Council Housing department for their actions in

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In November, Bulletin 116 we reported: "SHRA met with the local Councillors, the Housing staff (recently moved from the the Richmond Council to Housing Partnership) and Inspector Mark Jones in September to make sure that everything which could be done to prevent a recurrence of trouble is being done. We were satisfied that all parties had done all that could be done for now.

sorting their part of the problem. The Housing

department staff have been transferred to The

were grateful for a sympathetic approach

from police, housing staff, Ward Councillors

September to discuss the issues that emerged

from the case and to ensure similar

"At the time of the greatest difficulties we

"All parties were planning to meet in

Richmond Housing Partnership.

"SHRA was ready to lend further support to residents and the shops should trouble recurs. SHRA thanked especially the Councillors and Dr Vince Cable who had devoted considerable time to the issue during the year."

Fortunately, the actions taken by the Council and the Police seem to have worked and there were no further reports of similar incidents.



### Christmas Cheers!

t no expense whatsoever and simply Abecause it is fun we have created a Christmas cocktail called a "Strawberry Hill Sleigh Ride".

Do not look for symbolism or deeper meaning: there ain't none. Just enjoy.

#### **Recipe:**

35ml Yamazaki 12-year-old single malt whisky 25ml Grand Marnier 15ml Amontillado sherry 2 dashes of Angostura bitters Juice of <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> lime Garnish with orange twist

#### Method:

Pour whisky, liqueur and sherry over ice in a shaker. Add Angostura and lime juice. Shake. Strain into a chilled Martini glass. Garnish with a twist of orange peel.



Try this one at home in front of a roaring fire.



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## Capture your lives on film



Ctrawberry Hill "mover and shaker" Teresa Read and her social enterprise partner Berkley Driscoll are the brains behind a unique film festival, planned to run until April 2013.

Teresa and Berkeley have set up the Twickenham Alive Festival of short films documenting the lives and activities of local people.

Teresa explains: "The idea grew out of our work at Richmond Tertiary College, where students are making films with us about local issues and indeed some have entered the Festival." The Festival also ties in with an award-winning project Teresa managed in 2006 about the lives of people oversees. We thought "Why not make films about how we live in the borough?"

### Enter now

Twenty-five films have been submitted so far, from aspiring film-makers in Kew, Barnes, Hampton and Teddington: The Teddington Society also has entered, but so far there are no films from Strawberry Hill.

The films should be between five and 10 minutes long. The subjects can cover any local activity. "You might want to make a film about your local club, parents group or just a day in your life," says Teresa.

Judging takes place in April next year. Prizes will be awarded. In the run-up to the judging, entries will be screened at various locations within the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Teresa adds: "Films can be of any genre, such as documentary, drama or animation. They can be submitted by anyone, i.e. individuals, students, community groups, organisations, schools, traders associations and so on."

To enter contact:

film@twickenhamalive.com

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Cut! Berkley and Teresa try out their cinematographic skills



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