

No. 155 Summer 2014

## A turn of events

The peace was shattered in Spencer Road just before 7 p.m. on the evening of Saturday 10th May. Pam Crisp, SHRA Secretary, told us: "I heard a loud crash followed by the sound of concerned voices.

"When I went to the front window to see what had happened I was shocked to see a car on its side in the middle of the road. I was even more shocked when I went outside and saw that the car had come rest against mine, denting the door and knocking off the mirror in the process. Passers-by raised the overturned car slightly to allow the driver to crawl out (unhurt!) and see the extent of the damage caused. The initial collision was with a parked car on the opposite side of the road. This car was pushed up onto the pavement and hit another car parked in front. The impact tipped the moving vehicle onto its side and it slid across the road. Police, Fire and Ambulance services attended and the neighbours all came out to see what was going on!"



The offending vehicle lies on its side

The Police are investigating the cause of the incident.

## MKG3000 site to be re-developed

Permission has been granted for the garage's long-awaited facelift

Residents will be pleased to hear that the long-awaited development which will replace the old shoe repairer, is about to start. Indeed, it may already have started by the time you receive this Bulletin.

In mid-June we spoke to director Stefan Kadlubowski, who told us: "We expect the work to start within the next three weeks. We finally had all the conditions removed yesterday after Councillor David Marlow got involved on our behalf, telling the Planning Office to 'get a move on'. The planning took two years to be approved. However, when the approval came through last Christmas they attached, seven conditions which we have had to deal with. After months of jumping through hoops, we finally received the all clear yesterday... I personally would like to thank Councillor David Marlow. I fear that had he not been involved, the planning would have dragged on for months, if not years."

MKG3000 plans to build a new reception area on the site, which will link to their existing workshop building. The new

flat above has been reduced in height following objections from residents. As we mentioned in the last Bulletin, most of the garden area between the station path and Robinson Design will be lost to an access path to the flat. It is hoped that the trees that will be removed can be re-planted on the golf course.



Harji's cobbler's shop, soon to be redeveloped

## About this issue...

It's summer, families are taking their holidays and there seems to be less traffic on the roads. Maybe as a consequence, there's less interesting local news than is usual. Here at Bulletin HQ, we've never been ones to compromise the quality of our publication in favour of quantity, so we've decided to produce a four page version this time. We'll be back to our usual six pages with the next issue.

On the back page, we continue our 'Hunt for Heroes' with an article on two more residents who fought in the First World War. Elsewhere, there's information about the Strawberry Hill Music and Fun Day and the first steps in creating a Strawberry Hill Business Association.



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## Hollywood glamour comes to Twickenham

**T**he second SRB Twickenham Alive Film Festival took place in St Mary's University Student Union theatre, allowing a growing circle of local film-makers to take part.

Awards went to Jordan McKeller for Young Film-maker for his film India, Rhodri Williams (a Strawberry Hill resident!) for Not All London is Concrete for Original Cinematography while the

International Drama Award went to Harley Alexander for a drama set in Hong Kong called Incoming Call. Alban Low (The River), Mark Buckley (Hampton Wick Festival) and Henry Rogers (Borneo Rivers) all received engraved glass paperweights.

Film-makers who attended the event are keen to compete for the next Awards and we hope that we will see many more entries in 2015.

## Strawberry Hill means Business

**O**ver recent months, some members of the local community have been hard at work developing a local business association in Strawberry Hill. They have now had two meetings - a very lively breakfast meeting, and a follow-up discussion to finalise plans.

The association has been set up with the aim of promoting one voice for businesses in the area, as well as raising the profile of local business and developing a greater sense of community.

In late April, the breakfast meeting was held at the University with a number of local businesses in attendance, where not only aims

and objectives were discussed and established, but needs and issues were also identified, such as promoting reusable carrier bags, improving signage and parking and making Sundays more lively, as well as other events that could introduce residents to local businesses.

While still early days, we look forward to the new opportunities this may bring to the community and the Bulletin will keep you up to date with any developments.

In the meantime, if you run a local business and want to get involved, please contact John Addicott at Richmond Council for more information on 020 8831 6332 or 07983568491

## Summer at Strawberry Hill House

*Laura Teale, Property Operations Manager, writes about this summer's activities*

**W**e doubled our numbers at this year's launch event 'The Festival Fun', which took place on 1st June. Last year, 600 children and families attended and this year we were aiming for 1000. We actually had 1300 children and parents come on the day which was wonderful and I can report that there were over 1200 slides down the bouncy slide!

Twickenham Alive Music and Fun Day returns to Strawberry Hill on 20th July from noon (see our article on page 3). Enjoy an afternoon of live music, food, drink and family entertainment, generously supported by the RFU. Entry is free, but there is a suggested donation of £3 per person, with all money raised going towards the continued restoration and maintenance of Strawberry Hill House.

We now have an action packed-summer of family events coming up, so if you have any young family members requiring entertainment, do have a look at the events page on our website:

[www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk](http://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk)

We have drop in activities taking place every Saturday between 12.30 and 3 p.m. Led workshops start 23rd July and will be every Wednesday at 11 a.m. for under 5s and 3 p.m. for over 5s; these require advance booking. Royal Hedgegear, Bold and Bashful Bugs, Stained Glass Creations and Gothic Goblets are just some of the exciting subjects on offer. And finally, don't miss:

### Build a Giant Peacock

9th August 12:30 p.m. - 03:00 p.m.

Come and join us in the grounds of Strawberry Hill to help create a giant peacock. This activity will help to raise money for our Strawberry Hill Peacock Appeal.

This is a drop-in activity, so please come to Strawberry Hill anytime between 12.30 p.m. & 3 p.m. to join in. There is no booking required and there's a small charge of £2 per child. It's for children of all ages, but under 8s must be accompanied by an adult.

## SHRA 2014 Annual General Meeting

*The Association looks forward to its Golden Jubilee*

**S**trawberry Hill Residents' Association held its 49th AGM on 9th April at Strawberry Hill Golf Club.

At the start of the meeting Chairman Bruce Duff presented a cheque for £200, proceeds of the collection at the SHRA Christmas event, to Karen Singleton, Regional Manager, Choice Support and Charan Singh, Manager Roy Kinnear House.

Nicholas Smith, Property Director at Strawberry Hill House, was then invited to update the meeting on recent and future developments. Members were particularly interested to hear about the restoration of Horace Walpole's private rooms and look forward to seeing these when they are open to visitors early in 2015. Nick also reminded residents that entry to the gardens is free.

In his report Bruce, commented on the favourable outcome from the Association's involvement in persuading the Council to reverse its decision on proposed changes to the Strawberry Hill village boundary. The Christmas carol event was well attended, despite appalling weather, with families enjoying mulled wine and mince pies, as well as the singing. Other business included agreeing the annual accounts and electing the committee for this year. Special thanks were given to Eugene Bacot, who retired from the committee after 20 years. Eugene was instrumental in making the Bulletin the success it is today.

We look forward to a very special AGM next year when we will be celebrating the Association's Golden Jubilee!



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# Strawberry Hill Music and Fun Day

**The Strawberry Hill Music and Fun Day will take place on Sunday 20th July from 12 noon until 7:30 p.m.**

It has been the biggest annual event in the Borough for a number of years. Until this year, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) has been the sole sponsor, but due to reorganisation and a change in sponsorship policy, the RFU will not be directly involved in the event this time but are the major sponsor. Tenant Finder and McGeachieMedd, estate agents, are music sponsors.

This summer, Twickenham Alive, which has worked with the RFU for two years, is responsible for the whole event, raising funds for the restoration



*Fun in the sun at last year's event*

and maintenance of Strawberry Hill House.

There will be the usual variety of food and craft stalls, and also a new bar organised by Real Ales. Entertainment for younger visitors includes a fair ground, Shetland pony rides and water zorbing.

The line-up for the music stage starts with Lips, an all-girl band mentored by Brian May of Queen, followed by Shelle Luscombe and band, K (formerly Marner Brown), The Deputies, Alix Anthony, The Carnabys, recently back from tours around the globe, and the popular Nark Drool and The Shudders.

If any local residents have queries about the event, please contact the organisers on 07958 336944.

## Radnor House School applies for Heritage Lottery funding for Pope's Grotto

**R**adnor House School, the owners of Alexander Pope's historic Grotto, is applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a grant for the long-awaited restoration. A successful outcome to the application will allow the School and the Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust to begin raising matching funding to complete the project.

The Grotto will be repaired and re-presented, with many of its key features restored, and a new lighting scheme will be installed, evoking the Grotto's celebrated atmosphere, focusing on and identifying its collection of minerals. It is hoped that access to the Grotto will be greatly improved, with monthly openings throughout the year increasing to weekly during the summer holidays. The restoration and cleaning of the Grotto will provide opportunities for participation by small groups of students in tertiary and further education, as well as for

students of Radnor House School, to develop new skills of geological identification and restoration techniques.

### Openings and a call for volunteers

**T**he Grotto was opened to the public for two Saturdays during the Twickenham



*The Grotto as drawn by Samuel Lewis in 1786*

**Festival in June. Despite a rainy start to the first day, visitor numbers were as high as ever. The Grotto will next open during Open House London Weekend on Saturday 20th September.**

Openings are staffed by volunteers, who check tickets, guide visitors to the Grotto and answer simple questions (comprehensive display boards and handouts about Pope and the Grotto itself are available to visitors). There's an excellent coffee bar and a terrace with tables affording views down river to central Twickenham and across to Ham. Visitors spend a lot of time drinking coffee here, chatting and reading the display boards.

The Grotto can only be opened with at least five volunteers present per session. If you are interested in assisting at future openings, please contact the Trust by emailing:

[Contact@popesgrotto.org.uk](mailto:Contact@popesgrotto.org.uk)

Each opening lasts for about two hours and no specialist knowledge is required.

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# Peter's Hunt for Heroes continues

*Committee vice-chair Peter Lamb investigates Strawberry Hill in the First World War*

**The Hunt for Heroes continues and I was pleased to hear from George Kerpner who has been a resident of Strawberry Hill for many years.**

He has given me a lot of information about Clive Buttemer who lived at 3 Waldegrave Park and whom George knew very well. Clive Buttemer may not have been living in Strawberry Hill at the time of the Great War, but as he was a resident from at least 1938 to his death in 1966, his involvement in the 1914-18 conflict merits a report in this section of our bulletin. He was born in 1886, the youngest of 12 children of whom he was the only boy to return to his native England, his father having taken part in the Californian Gold Rush as a mining engineer. His mother brought him and his only sister back for his education and when he left school he worked in the City until the outbreak of the Great War.

He immediately volunteered for the army and received his military training with the King's Liverpool regiment, where he obtained his commission as second lieutenant. He was sent to France and fought there for the duration of the four year long conflict, surviving some of the most momentous battles, including the Somme. His only break was when he was wounded and sent back to England for a few weeks' recuperation. At the end of the war, he was sent out to Salonika in Greece, where he acted as a quartermaster to the troops stationed there. His military service did not end then. His last posting was to Ireland before the partition, where he witnessed the almost daily murders during the Black and Tan troubles.

After running a flooring company for many years, he bought numbers 1 and 3 Waldegrave Park on behalf of his French brother-in-law around 1930. The price for both these houses together was less than £3300. He worked hard looking after these properties and dealing with an endless succession of tenants, many of whom could be extremely troublesome, whilst others became lifelong friends. One wonders whether there are other people in the locality who remember Clive Buttemer? I am very grateful to George Kerpner for sharing his memories.

Another local hero I have managed to trace is Guy Leathley Chater who lived at 11 Waldegrave Gardens. He was born in 1892 in Twickenham and was a pupil of Harrow School from September 1906 to 1910. He enlisted in 1913 and at the outbreak of the war served in the 28th Battalion

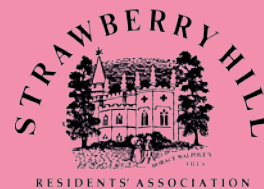
County of London Regiment which was known as 'The Artists' Rifles'. They were mobilised on 4th August 1914 and sailed for France in October. A few days after landing Sir John French, the Commander in Chief of the British Expeditionary Force, requested the immediate commissioning of officers from the battalion to replace the enormous officer losses of a division due back in the line in three days. Officer training was hasty and perfunctory, and Guy for one found himself suddenly elevated to major in the 1st Norfolk Regiment. Guy survived the war, having fought in numerous actions on the Western Front, including the Battle of Ancre, the Second Battle of Passchendaele and Cambrai. He died in August 1974 in Pulborough, Sussex.

Some additional information has come to light about Hubert Pownall who featured in my previous article. As I reported before, he lived at 13 Waldegrave Gardens next door to Guy Chater. He worked locally as a chartered accountant before joining the army in 1914. Apparently he hated his job and like many of his generation saw the war as a release from the drudgery of working life and an opportunity for adventure. That illusion must have soon been shattered on the Western Front; in fact long before he lost his life in the slaughter of the Somme in July 1916. Before the war he was a successful rower. In 1911 he was in the junior eight that won the Challenge Cup at Staines. The following year he was in the eight which won the Thames Cup at Molesey and rowed bow in the Twickenham Rowing Club eight at Henley in 1913 and 1914. He was also an enthusiastic hockey player.

As I continue my research into the people of Strawberry Hill at the time of the Great War, I hope to identify more individuals who served both at the front and at home, and to be able to tell their stories, even if they are a little short in detail. In this way we can observe the dictum: "Lest we forget".



*Hubert Pownall is the officer at the rear*



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