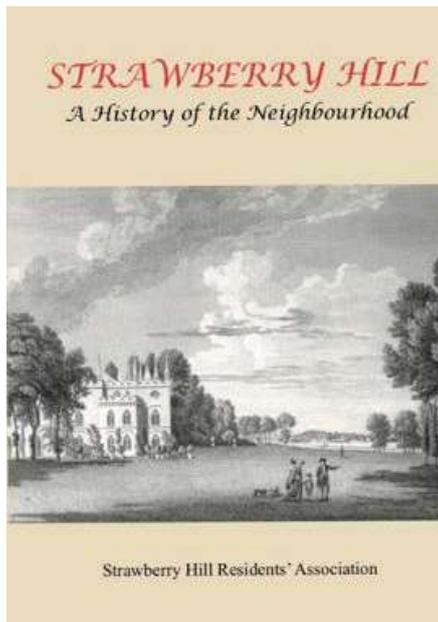


## Editor's Introduction

### Welcome to the Strawberry Hill Residents' Association e-Bulletin

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



Cover of the SHRA-published local history book

We are delighted to report that following the **Annual General Meeting at Strawberry Hill Golf Club** on 27 April, the Committee has a **full complement of 15 members**. We should also say a big thank you to our outgoing Chair, **David Cornwell**, for his hard work and commitment over the past few years. As a result of new members joining the Committee, SHRA will be organising more events and activities. In this issue we report on the Seed & Plant Swap, Village Litter Pick, the launch of our local history book – *Strawberry Hill: A History of the Neighbourhood* and the planned

**Family Picnic at Strawberry Hill House on 4 September.** As usual we are reporting on things happening in Strawberry Hill including the Jubilee street parties, the e-scooter pilot and the latest crime statistics.

If you enjoy reading *The Bulletin*, then please recommend it to friends and neighbours who can receive SHRA communications to residents by emailing us at [Bulletin@shra.org.uk](mailto:Bulletin@shra.org.uk).

To aid the reader we have divided the content into seven sections. Unlike other local e-magazines our focus is exclusively upon Strawberry Hill. 'Local Issues' is a catch-all covering anything controversial happening locally which can include crime, planning, parking, Council policies or recycling bins. The 'Association' provides an update on the work of the SHRA Committee in managing and running the Association. It also contains the contact details for Committee members and the subscription form. The 'Green Pages' describe the various ways in which SHRA is delivering on its environmental strategy and on local, related topics. 'Roads & Transport' is a new section reflecting the interest of residents in issues such as the e-scooter pilot and Strawberry Hill station. The 'Heritage & History' section covers our important heritage assets, such as Strawberry Hill House and Pope's Grotto, and local history. Finally, the 'Business Pages' offer profiles of Strawberry Hill businesses.

**Andrew Miller, Chair, SHRA**

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### In this issue:

**Local Issues :** We are pleased to welcome Councillor **Richard Bennett**, Leader of the Green Party on Richmond Council, to the Councillor's Update column. **June Collins** provides an overview of the latest crime statistics. **Andrew Miller** visits Strawberry Hill's street parties during the weekend of the Platinum Jubilee. [CLICK HERE](#)

**The Association :** In this section, **Zoe Prindiville** reports on April's SHRA AGM. **Cathy Bird** and **Julia Fiehn** introduce the SHRA Family Picnic on 4 September. Committee members, **Mike Allsop**, **Mary Hughes** and **John Tjaardstra** are profiled. [CLICK HERE](#)

**Green Pages :** **Sharon Willoughby** discusses her perspective on environmental issues with our Green Councillor, **Richard Bennett**, and there are reports on the Seed Swap and Litter Pick. [CLICK HERE](#)

**Roads & Transport :** SHRA's recently appointed Committee member for roads and transport issues, **Mary Hughes**, discusses issues affecting Strawberry Hill residents, including the e-scooter pilot. [CLICK HERE](#)

**Heritage & History :** **Andrew Miller** reports on the fully-revised local history book, *Strawberry Hill: A history of the neighbourhood* and the launch event in the Great Parlour of Strawberry Hill House. Forthcoming events at Strawberry Hill House are profiled. [CLICK HERE](#)

**Business :** **Zoe Prindiville** visits Strawberry Hill Golf Club. [CLICK HERE](#)

## Local Issues

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

### Conservation Areas

There are 85 designated Conservation Areas in the Borough. They include Twickenham Green, Pope's Avenue, Strawberry Hill Road, Fieldend, Mallard Place and Strawberry Vale. The appraisal of new ones and extensions to existing ones are frequent. They are detailed and lay the basis for assessing the impact of any planning applications. They also highlight the unloved past errors that got through the system.

Being in a Conservation Area means that there are tighter restrictions on what you are allowed to do to your property but compensated for by those controls being applied to what others might like to do in your neighbourhood. All trees, for example, are covered by Tree Protection Orders in a Conservation Area. Harm to the "special character" of the area is the judgement that is made. Solar panels are frowned on in general, not just on listed buildings in the Conservation Area, however, the next Local Plan may offer some flexibility.

### Engaging with the Council

I am keen to encourage more participation by residents. There are Public Questions at each full Council Meeting. September 27th is the next one. Your question will receive a verbal reply and there is the opportunity to ask a supplementary. Alternatively, there is the option of a written reply.

However, the opportunity that I want to promote is to raise an issue at the five Service Committees. The calendar of meetings, minutes and agendas are as available to residents on the website as they are to Councillors. The Forward Plan in these informs you of the topics and reports due for discussion at forthcoming meetings. A resident can request to give a three-minute speech to a Committee expressing their concerns and opinion on an Agenda item.

The next set of Service Committee Meetings will be in September. We already know that The Environment Committee will discuss the Events Policy for Parks and Open Spaces, and Tree Policy and Planting. Adult Social Services will discuss Dementia Strategy 2022-2027 and Richmond Housing Partnership Annual Performance. Transport will discuss Bike Hangars and Royal Parks Traffic Arrangements. These are just examples to indicate that there may be subjects that you feel motivated to speak on and address a Committee. Please do feel free to contact me if you need some reassurance.

Email Richard at – [cllr.r.bennett@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.r.bennett@richmond.gov.uk)

### Jubilee Street Parties

By Andrew Miller



Radnor Road BBQ

Royals at Waldegrave Gardens Street Party

Spencer Road Bake Off

Waldegrave Gardens Lunch

Several of the streets in Strawberry Hill were closed as residents mingled in parties to celebrate the Jubilee weekend from 3-5 June. Across the Borough there was a flood of applications, as the Council waived charges for street closures. On our patch there were at least eight street parties:

- Friday 3 June - Spencer Road & Waldegrave Gardens;
- Sunday 5 June – Hawkesley Close, Orford Gardens, Radnor Road & Southfield Gardens;
- Saturday 11 June – Bonser Road & Heath Gardens.

By and large the weather was kind but the Friday parties enjoyed the best of the sunshine.

The road closures allowed the children to experience traffic-free streets reminiscent of a bygone age – go karts in Orford Gardens, table football in Radnor Road and basketball in Waldegrave Gardens. Spencer Road enjoyed some live music from a singer guitarist and Orford Gardens had a DJ set from a young resident. Waldegrave Gardens' celebrations, as has become the custom, were watched by a group of inflatable Royals. They also had a dog show with the street's dogs competing against each other. Some streets, such as Spencer Road, Radnor Road and Waldegrave Gardens, went for the long communal tables, echoing previous celebrations. Bake-off competitions meant that the tables were groaning under the weight of cakes and desserts. People brought out their barbecues onto the pavements sending smoke and the smell of burgers and sausages.

The Jubilee gave Strawberry Hill residents the opportunity to catch up with neighbours that they might not have talked to for ages. SHRA supports street closures for residents' events as an excellent means of meeting its objective 'to promote community spirit in Strawberry Hill'. We applaud the hard work put in by those residents who put in the effort to organise these events.

## Local Issues

### Crime in Strawberry Hill

by June Collins

The last PLG (Police Liaison Group) meeting was held on Zoom on 26th May. If you wish to take part in the meeting, information can be obtained from Pam McMillen at: email: [pam.plg-mcmillen@hotmail.com](mailto:pam.plg-mcmillen@hotmail.com).

**Police staffing levels :** As previously, 1 Sergeant, 1 Police Officer and 1 PCSO (office based).

Twickenham Police Station, together with Kingston are now the only response stations. In June, police and partner organisations will open a one-stop domestic violence shop in Hampton for the whole of Richmond and will offer advice on Fridays. This will be advertised shortly and added to local MP's newsletters. Clare Head is standing down as chair of the group and Cllr. Michael Butlin has agreed to oversee the Chair role, as no-one else volunteered.

The table below shows the crime figures for South Twickenham Ward (including Strawberry Hill) as reported for the period February 2021 – April 2021 with a comparison for the corresponding period in 2022.

The South Twickenham figures are still good, although crime is increasing generally post-Covid and bike thefts (five of which were from sheds) is still too high.

Offence	Feb 21 - Apr 2021	Feb 22 – April 2022	Change
Burglary	9	9	0
Criminal Damage	8	4	-4
Robbery	1	4	+3
Theft from M/V	7	5	+2
Theft of M/V	5	7	+2
Theft of pedal cycle	8	10	+2
Non Domestic	4	12	+8
Domestic	8	3	-5
Youth Violence	2	1	-1

#### Updates:

- **Carpenter's Court:** Due to the installation of new door locks and concerted work and patrols by PC Ray Sullivan, drug dealing here has stopped and the ASB problems have receded. However, following a report from a local resident, it appears the drug dealing may have moved. More cameras and more visible police patrols are required. The SNT will be following up on this.
- **CCTV** had been moved to Twickenham Green but is now deployed on Hampton Road.
- **An ASB log** is in place for Twickenham Green and PC Sullivan has engaged with youths there. A professional meeting was held on 22/03/2022 where the problems here were discussed and a plan worked out in case things escalated. Since then calls to the Police have decreased.
- **Underage drinking** and licensing operations are still taking place. Hampton News and Booze will not have their Alcohol Licence renewed and Twickenham Local, Heath Road are currently on an action plan with regards to selling alcohol. The Licencing Officer is looking to have their Alcohol Licence removed.
- New concern regarding **Amazon deliveries** which have been left on doorsteps and then stolen, even though ring doorbell captures the incidents. This seems to be a pandemic issue. If you have experienced this and have footage then please provide it to the police who will try to identify the thief.



South Twickenham SNT email address: [southtwickenham.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:southtwickenham.snt@met.police.uk)

#### Useful Links:

Street Safe online reporting- where you can report places you don't feel safe, e.g. insufficient lighting, overgrown foliage etc.

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

Richmond Safer Neighbourhood Board offer a free crime prevention visit to residential addresses.

Email: [crimepreventionadvice@yahoo.com](mailto:crimepreventionadvice@yahoo.com)

Protect your bike from theft – join the UK's national, police approved, bicycle marking and registration scheme.

[www.bikeregister.com](http://www.bikeregister.com)

# The Association

## Report on the 2022 Annual General Meeting

The SHRA AGM was held on 27th April at the Strawberry Hill Golf Club in front of a vastly improved turnout on last year! This is testament to the success of flyers that were distributed by members of the Committee to raise awareness of the Association and the AGM. There was also the return of residents who had been deterred by Covid-19 from attending last year.



Residents meet the Committee at Strawberry Hill Golf Club - 2022 AGM



Powerpoint Presentation at the AGM

### David Cornwell

The meeting opened with the always keenly anticipated Chairman's report, and David Cornwell's last. He thanked residents for coming along, and talked about the huge success of the Christmas Carol Event – thanking those who organised it, as well as the Richmond Brass Band for providing the backing music!

The next topical issue was the recycling centre at the corner of Pope's Avenue, which remains a frustration for those who live in the vicinity but also to those who have endeavoured to contact the Council to engender change. David then moved on to talk about the success of the digitisation of the Bulletin, which has meant more articles of local interest, covered in greater depth. He thanked Andrew Miller and Sam Kamleh for their work in editing and producing it.

The Chairman's report concluded with his plea for more Committee members, particularly in the fields of Transport issues plus Communications and ICT. He then thanked the Committee and the residents for their support and formally **handed his Chairmanship over to Andrew Miller** who has been Vice Chair for the past three years.

### The new Chairman

Sadly, Andrew could not be welcomed by the meeting due to being struck down by Covid, but instead asked **Pam Crisp, our Secretary**, to read out a message in his absence. He began by thanking David for his contribution to the Association, and focused on the new objective of 'promoting community spirit in the area'. This had passed as a SHRA objective at the AGM in 2021 in an amendment to the Constitution. Andrew echoed David's call for new members to the Committee in order to achieve this.

He also announced plans for several events over the next few months, including the launch of an updated edition of **Anthony Beckles Willson's Strawberry Hill: A history of the neighbourhood** on 15 July at Strawberry Hill House (see Heritage & History section). He concluded by emphasising the need to increase the number of residents on the Association's database in order to be able to communicate as widely as possible.

### Treasurer's Report

The next item on the agenda was the approval of last year's accounts prepared by our Treasurer, June Collins, and independently audited. One resident questioned the cost of the Christmas tree and Pam Crisp responded that the price was competitive, based on last year's search for alternative options.

Finally, under AOB, questions were raised about:

- the long-term plan for the station buildings;
- street cleaning;
- the maintenance of the grass verges; and
- the level-crossing gates, coming down up to three minutes before the train.

The Chairman noted these questions. A final discussion centred on the Jubilee and street parties being organised in the Village.

## The Association

### Old Strawberry Hill

The meeting concluded with residents enjoying a complimentary drink courtesy of the Association and chatting to members of the Committee. Many of the audience enjoyed a PowerPoint presentation on Old Strawberry Hill through postcards and photographs prepared by Andrew Miller. The illustrated journey through the streets of Strawberry Hill followed the seven 'tours' found in the SHRA publication, Strawberry Hill: A history of the neighbourhood.



SHRA Committee meeting at St Mary's University 2022

### Your SHRA Committee

We are delighted to report that for the first time in a while the Committee has a full complement of fifteen members. In line with a change of policy we have recruited people to fill particular roles. Mary Hughes has joined as Roads & Transport Coordinator and John Tjaardstra has the Business Liaison role. We have two former Committee members, Cathy Bird (former Treasurer) and Julia Fiehn (former Bulletin Editor), who have rejoined and taken on the role of Events Coordinators. Finally Robin Moran has recently taken on a Marketing & Communications role helping to improve and upgrade our communications with residents. Contact details for all Committee members can be found at the end of this section.

### The Family Picnic at Strawberry Hill House – 4 September, SHRA summer event By SHRA Events Coordinators: Cathy Bird and Julia Fiehn

A new object of the Strawberry Hill Residents' Association has been added to the constitution (see our website [www.shra.org.uk](http://www.shra.org.uk)). The new object is 'to promote community spirit within Strawberry Hill'. To this end, we are planning to run a series of events in the area, so that members can meet and get to know each other. The first of these events is to be a family picnic to be held on the afternoon of Sunday 4 September, 4.00pm – 6.00p, in the grounds of Strawberry Hill House. We will be entertained by music from the Richmond Brass Band.

So, please come along to this free event, bring your own picnic - and possibly a favourite dressed Teddy Bear - in order to meet other residents of Strawberry Hill. There will be special activities and picnic treats for the children. We have use of the House car park and toilets. We are very grateful to Strawberry Hill House for allowing us to use the gardens (no dogs or ball games permitted). Please sign up on our website and bring your acknowledgement with you (for the security of all). Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis to families living in Strawberry Hill. We will be collecting donations for the charity, Together for Short Lives.

We would also like to hear your views on other possible events you would like to see in our area. Please comment on [info@shra.org.uk](mailto:info@shra.org.uk).



Strawberry Hill House - Family Picnic location 4 Sept 2022

## The Association

### Profile of SHRA Committee members

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



#### **Mike Allsop, Planning Monitor**

After living for many years in various flats in North London I moved to Strawberry Hill with my wife and a very young son in 1985. We initially lived in a house in Radnor Gardens, and moved two years later to our current house in Southfield Gardens. I was brought up in Felixstowe in Suffolk, then a rather sleepy seaside resort, now transformed into one of the UK's major ports. After studying economics in Canterbury I moved to London, joining the London office of Touche Ross (now Deloitte), one of the large accountancy firms, working primarily on banking and financial services businesses. For 20 years from the mid 1980s, I worked for the HSBC Group, initially based in the London Office of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank working with various of the Group's UK and International subsidiaries. After the HSBC Group moved its Head Office to London, I worked out of the Head Office in the City and then from its new Canary Wharf tower. I joined the SHRA Committee not long after I retired, and have now been a Committee member for 13 years. Currently, and for most of that time, I have monitored planning applications across Strawberry Hill for SHRA, and for the first 10 years I also chaired the joint SHRA/St Mary's University Liaison Committee. My main interests are history, gardening, walking, and nature, particularly bird watching.



#### **John Tjaardstra, Business Liaison**

With my young family I moved to Strawberry Hill some forty years ago, having previously lived in Hampton and Wimbledon. After completing an Economics degree I worked mainly in the commodities sector, initially with spells in a UK cereals agency and an international metals organisation. Subsequently I joined an intergovernmental grains body, later relocated in Canary Wharf, concerned primarily with promoting global trade and food security. There I was responsible for the organisation's economic output and administration, as well as representing it in various international fora. I retired from the role some ten years ago. Among my interests is the built environment, including classical architectural styles as well the best, or most interesting, of what the 20th and 21st centuries have to offer. Because of a long-term illness in the family, I became very familiar with health care and disability issues, with some involvement in one or two relevant local charities. As many others doubtless have experienced, the practicalities of arranging appropriate levels of domiciliary care proved a particular challenge over the years. Both my sons currently work abroad, with Covid-19 having complicated any visits in the past two years. When the lock-downs began I redoubled my fitness "regime" at home, though sadly the results have been less than impressive!



#### **Mary Hughes, Roads & Transport Coordinator**

I was born and brought up in Monmouthshire in South Wales and, after completing an English degree at the University of Wales, Cardiff, moved to Uxbridge where I started teaching in further education. As my career progressed, I moved to Twickenham in 1984 initially living in Radnor Gardens before moving, after the birth of my son, to my current house in Pope's Avenue in 1990. Until my retirement five years ago, I was a senior manager at Brooklands College, Weybridge. A demanding career in education and family life left me with little time to get involved in community activities. However, since my retirement, I have been actively involved in the successful campaign to introduce a CPZ in Strawberry Hill and have also joined the governing body of a Surrey Further Education College. I joined the SHRA committee, as I saw an opportunity to work with others to preserve and enhance the unique qualities of Strawberry Hill which make it a great place to live in and for visitors to spend time in.

## The Association

**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  
C : Standing order forms are available from the Treasurer email:  
**june.collins@hotmail.co.uk.**

To donate, please email the Treasure when making a payment via BACS. Details are:  
NatWest Account Name: Strawberry Hill Residents' Association  
Account Number: 71550410  
Sort code: 55-50-39

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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/Strawberry_Hill_Residents'_Association)

## Green Pages

Environment Coordinators: Louisa Carradine and Sharon Willoughby

### When Sharon Met Richard

**Sharon Willoughby** (SW) SHRA's Environment Coordinator talks about all things green with **Richard Bennett** (RB), leader of the Richmond Green Party.

#### Question 1: How did you first become involved with environmental issues?

**RB:** I have always cared about the environment and thought it was important. When I retired, I really wanted to become involved in politics. I did my research, and it came up with the Green Party. I became fully engaged with environmental issues when I started with the Greens locally.

**SW:** My dad really loved spending time in the bush. At weekends we would head out of Melbourne into the countryside. At high school I joined the United Nations Youth Association and became an environmental activist. I was always banging on about environmental issues to my peers. Then I studied ecological science for my BSc. Since then, communicating environmental science has been a consistent thread in my career.

#### Question 2: What are the priorities for improving the environment of Strawberry Hill?

**SW:** We need to get better at recycling across the neighbourhood. It would be good if we could cut the amount of fly-tipping at the recycling centre on the corner of Wellesley Road and Pope's Avenue.

**RB:** It would be great if we could get more biodiversity. We need the recycling centres, but they do not add up to a big increase in our recycling achievements. They can become unsightly. Fly-tipping is dealt with quite quickly, so people do not feel so guilty about doing it. The recycling centre could look better with new bins.

**SW:** People come into the area to fly-tip. If we could get the resources to improve the appearance of the recycling centre, locate some posters about recycling, a few planters and seating, that would be good, it would create a place we could be proud of. I have had the experience of going to the centre and talking to neighbours and sometimes swapping items that can then be re-used such as pots for the garden. Seats and planters would encourage people to linger there.

#### Question 3: What can be done to promote biodiversity in Strawberry Hill?

**SW:** One priority are our verges. It would be great if the neighbourhood could work with the Council to manage these important potential biodiversity hotspots. Many residents are finding the wild oat seeds problematic, especially when they cause injuries to pets. Presently wild oat is dominating most of the verges being managed under the 'Rural cutting' regimen (three cuts per year with cuttings removed). It would be good if we could support Richmond to cut these verges, in good time, to remove the seeds of this species in good time, this would allow other species waiting in the soil seedbank to germinate – increasing local biodiversity. Perhaps we could set up a project to grow wildflower plants and plug plant these verges – helping to move them to a more diverse species mix sooner.

**RB:** There is a contract for cutting the verges but inevitably it has to be very simple. Biodiversity means the variety and abundance of life. In terms of animal life it is difficult for them to move around as green spaces are in small pockets. We have gardens that have fences and other barriers, and creatures cannot move between them. Front gardens are concreted over for cars. We can also encourage residents not to use pesticides or peat – the Council are doing this already and it would be good if residents were as well.

**SW:** Residents in Barnes developed an interesting biodiversity project called the 'Hedgehog Highway'. There are number of significant areas of green space in Strawberry Hill and, if we could somehow link them to each other, perhaps via the verges, that would help a lot.

#### Question 4: What more can the Council/SHRA do to help residents/businesses reduce their carbon footprint?

**RB:** The Council is doing a lot to reduce its own carbon footprint. Before Covid-19 I went to York House and saw every light on in the Civic Centre at 7pm and there was no one there not even the cleaners. I said we must do something about this and they did. They are doing a lot on renewables and combatting emissions in their buildings and measuring this. We are using WHO standards and not just UK standards – that is a commitment the Borough has made. They are really encouraging things to go on in Richmond.

**SW:** We talked earlier about making recycling easier. It would also be good if we could find ways to support the 'circular economy'. For example, there are a lot of things that get dumped. What are the ways for people in Strawberry Hill to swap items they no longer want? A 'Repair Shop' in the disused station booking office would be great. The old station building could be repurposed to serve our community, it would give Strawberry Hill a beating heart and be a great asset.

#### Question 5: How can we promote more pedestrian- and cycle-friendly streets in Strawberry Hill?

**SW:** I am a resident and a cyclist in Strawberry Hill, and I have experienced few problems. Having said that, riding into Teddington via Strawberry Vale, is quite scary, also approaching Twickenham via Cross Deep can be a bit intimidating. Overall, it is a very pedestrian-friendly neighbourhood.

**RB:** Currently, Cross Deep and Strawberry Vale are difficult, as you are in the cycle lane and then you are not. That should change with the Strawberry Vale cycle corridor. It would also be good if there was an area around the station that could be pedestrianised.

#### Question 6: What, if anything, would make Strawberry Hill a 20-minute neighbourhood (to reduce car use then all residents' needs can be met in a 10 mins walk there and 10 mins back)?

**RB:** The 20-minute neighbourhood is a complex concept. It is useful in thinking about planning and the things you need on the high street. Strawberry Hill is well served with private and Catholic schools but less so with state, non-denominational schools. You need access to doctors, dentists, playgrounds, and a community centre. Maybe a post office is not as crucial as it was. We have police liaison group meetings for South Twickenham, but we have nowhere to hold them. Similarly, we run my Councillor's surgery at York House, as we cannot find anywhere suitable in Strawberry Hill. So, a community centre is missing.

**SW:** The 20-minute neighbourhood is a term I've not heard before. I find that almost everything I need is close at hand in either Strawberry Hill or Twickenham. A post office is crucial when I need to send items home to Melbourne – we have that in Strawberry Hill. It would however be fabulous if we had a community hub in the centre of the village, the old station or similar a place where we could all come together for meetings, swapping, and sharing. Local biodiversity needs a strong community ecology to support it.



## Green Pages

### SHRA Seed Swap



SHRA Seed Swap stall in Pope's Grove

On Saturday 21 May 2022 SHRA held its first neighbourhood seed swap for many years. The first 'swap meet' was organised by former SHRA stalwart, John Armstrong, on the pedestrian island by Wellesley Parade. Unfortunately, we couldn't negotiate permission with Richmond Council, to use that location again. However, the day was saved when a very generous resident, and their neighbour came to our rescue and offered their double driveway.

Members of the SHRA Committee set up a couple of folding tables ready for 11am and set out baskets of vegetable and ornamental seeds for passers-by or swappers to look through. We also had a tray of rooted cuttings and seedlings ready for the swap including tomatoes, basil, nasturtiums, and geraniums.

One local resident dropped by on their bicycle to leave several very healthy-looking tomato plants and left with several ornamental seedlings and some seeds – swap made! Passing families headed off with tomatoes for their children to grow in pots in their gardens. We were able to pass on information about companion planting and species that seem to grow well in Strawberry Hill.

It was lovely to meet so many locals and share stories about what we are all growing in our gardens. We hope that the next Seed, Cuttings and Plant Swap will be held around the same time in May 2023 – watch the Bulletin and SHRA noticeboard at the station for more details

### SHRA Litter-Picking Strategy

The SHRA Committee has devised a 'litter-picking strategy' for Strawberry Hill whereby residents and Committee members can augment the services provided by the Council to improve the appearance of the area. The objectives of the strategy are:

- To find out what areas of Strawberry Hill are most susceptible to litter.
- To bring together neighbours of Strawberry Hill who are interested in keeping our Village litter- and plastic-free.
- To organise a regular litter-picking group for the Village.
- To organise one or more litter picking days per annum to encourage residents across Strawberry Hill to pick in their own street.
- To dispose of litter responsibly, as far as practicable, by sorting into mixed and paper/card recycling and general waste.

On Saturday 9 July a group of seven SHRA Committee litter pickers assembled at 9am at Wellesley Parade to be briefed by Louisa Carradine. Louisa distributed pickers, rings and bags supplied by Habitats & Heritage and gave out some advice, for example, warning of the risks involved in pursuing litter in the road. The group divided into teams of two to pick along Tower Road, as far as Radnor Road, and along Wellesley Road, as far as Spencer Road. There was less 'large stuff' (cans, bottles) and a lot more 'small stuff' (cigarette butts, pieces of plastic) collected and clearly much of it had been there a long time. The group convened afterwards to debrief the experience. We agreed that a regular monthly pick of the Village was desirable and achievable – and we settled on the second Saturday of the month from 9-10am assembling at Wellesley Parade. Members of the Committee will be joined by sympathetic residents, some of whom already litter pick as an individual choice, and are to be applauded. We also agreed that it would be desirable to promote one or more 'litter pick days' when residents across the 42 streets and closes, as well as those living in blocks are encouraged to mobilise and act. The next litter picks are Saturdays 13 August, 10 September and 8 October. Residents who are interested in joining the Village litter-pick group should contact **Louisa Carradine**.



Strawberry Hill SHRA members picking litter

## Roads & Transport

By Mary Hughes

### Introduction

I have recently joined SHRA with the remit of Roads & Transport Coordinator. Although SHRA has often become involved in such issues, there has not been a Committee member with a dedicated role for roads and transport. In line with its concern for the environment, SHRA has been supportive of the 20mph limits and the concept of the 20-minute neighbourhood. Our roads and transport strategy similarly prioritises the pedestrian, cyclist and user of public transport over the motorist. The objectives of SHRA's roads and transport strategy are:

- To identify transport problems and to improve the travelling environment for all.
- To work with South Western Railway, Network Rail and residents to maintain and improve Strawberry Hill station.
- To liaise with ward councillors to tackle infrastructure problems.
- To identify and address problems arising from increasingly diverse road and pavement use.

### Tackling transport problems

SHRA is working to identify transport problems and improve the travelling environment for us all. Many of the points raised by residents relate to transport. Whatever mode of travel you use, issues can arise. Perspectives on concerns vary depending on whether you are on rail, bus, car, cycle, scooter or foot. Obviously, these issues are not all particular to Strawberry Hill and some require action by LBRUT, SWR or even national legislation. However we intend to resolve what we can as residents and lobby relevant organisations to improve matters locally.

### The SWR Station Adoption Programme

SHRA is currently investigating the possibility of joining SWR's 'Station Adoption' programme. The focus of Strawberry Hill Village is the railway station. Once the railway arrived in 1873 impressive houses and supporting shops clustered around this effective link between the pastoral riverside and the bustling city. People were thus able to enjoy, as they do today, the best of both worlds. The aim of the 'Station Adoption' programme is to improve stations and change how they serve the local area by enhancing both social and economic development. This also aligns with the objectives in Richmond Borough's Plan which states that in Strawberry Hill '... the local centre and railway station will be enhanced to create a 'real heart' to the area.' The principal challenge for SHRA is in recruiting resident volunteers with a particular interest in helping to improve their local station.

### Infrastructure problems

SHRA will be liaising with ward councillors to tackle infrastructure problems. These range from road surface problems (with pot holes, sink holes and 'lakes' after heavy rain) of particular concern, to the enforcement of speed limits in particularly busy streets. Our attention has been drawn to high speed traffic in Waldegrave Road. SHRA's attention has also been drawn by local business people to the problem of air quality and idling engines at the level crossing in Tower Road. Improvement to signage asking motorists to turn off engines when parked or waiting at the level crossing is needed. There is also the issue of random distribution of e-charging points in lampposts, e.g. there are currently none in the whole of the SH CPZ zone.



E-scooter bay in Heath Road

SHRA will be investigating the problems arising from increasingly diverse road and pavement use. With the increase in the number of people walking and the increase in alternative modes of transport this is an issue where clarification is urgently needed to be made and advertised. SHRA is consulting with residents and responding to the expansion of the e-scooter pilot to Strawberry Hill which raises concerns, such as maintaining our pedestrian-friendly environment. SHRA is responding to the LBRuT consultation on the location of two e-scooter/e-bike bays in Orford Gardens and Waldegrave Gardens.

## History & Heritage

We are pleased to report on our ongoing partnership with Strawberry Hill House, our major tourist attraction and heritage asset. We are delighted that the Director, Derek Purnell, has enabled SHRA to hold our book launch in the Great Parlour and our family picnic in the beautiful grounds of the House. In return we are happy to help promote their forthcoming events which are described below. For more details please visit the website – [www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk](http://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk)

### Forthcoming Events at Strawberry Hill House

By Bethan Wood



Pollock's Toy Museum cardboard cut-outs

#### Pollock's Toy Museum presents: 'Cardboard Gothic: Damsels, Demons and Heroes'

10 July – 14 September

Pollock's Toy theatres, bring Horace Walpole's imaginary world of Gothic to life through a trail of miniature Victorian theatres dispersed across the main rooms of the House. Tickets are included in general admission.

#### Twilight Tours

Wednesday 7 September at 7pm

Explore the castle at twilight for a 90-minute tour of the house that is gothic and gloomth at this most eerie time of day. Kicked off with a glass of fizz, you will be guided through Horace Walpole's theatrical masterpiece, his gothic castle of Strawberry Hill.



Strawberry Hill House Twilight Tours

#### HandleBards: Shakespeare's Twelfth Night

11 September at 7pm.

Join The HandleBards at Strawberry Hill House for a bicycle-powered, laugh-out-loud production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. Duke Orsino is in love with Lady Olivia, but she won't have anything to do with suitors. Viola is shipwrecked and believes her twin brother Sebastian to be dead. Meanwhile, a bunch of Olivia's servants plot to make a fool out of her pompous butler, Malvolio. There's drunkenness, frivolity and cross-dressing a plenty.



Twelfth Night Poster



Strawberry Hill Flower Festival

#### Strawberry Hill House Flower Festival 2022

Friday 23 – Sunday 25 September, 11am – 5pm

The Strawberry Hill House Flower Festival, curated by Leigh Chappell & Janne Ford, returns for a fourth successive year this September with a spectacular showcase of the very best of British-grown flowers, foam-free sustainable floristry, and the design creativity of the UK's leading floral designers.

In association with Flowers From The Farm.  
Proudly sponsored by **Savills Teddington**.

## History & Heritage

### Strawberry Hill: A History of the Neighbourhood Published by Strawberry Hill Residents' Association



Robert Youngs and Andrew Miller speak at the book launch in front of the Ladies Waldegrave by Bonhams - photo courtesy of June Collins

The book was originally researched and written by Anthony Beckles Willson, a long-time resident of Strawberry Hill in 1991. It provides a definitive account of the 42 streets and closes that comprise that part of South Twickenham known as Strawberry Hill. Updated with new research and illustrations, this book tells the story of how the medieval open South Field of Twickenham became the villas and estates of writers, artists and aristocracy in the 18th century. These include Alexander Pope followed by Horace Walpole and his gothic castle, Strawberry Hill House, now magnificently restored and from which the area takes its name, to the genteel residences of early Victorian times and the gradual residential development from the late 19th century into the London suburb of today. Personal reminiscences flavour the facts, maps and plans that guide the reader through the roads and their history, and we learn the stories of many of the people who lived here. This book will be of great interest to local residents and, more widely, to people who value local history in Richmond, London and beyond.

#### The launch in the Great Parlour

On Friday 15 July members of the SHRA Committee were joined by 30 specially invited guests to attend the launch of *Strawberry Hill: A history of the neighbourhood* in the Great Parlour of Strawberry Hill House. Guests included Derek Purnell, Director of Strawberry Hill House, Anthony McClaran, Vice Chancellor of St Mary's University, Richard Bennett, Green Councillor for South Twickenham and Munira Wilson MP. Guests enjoyed mixing in the beautiful surroundings, a glass of prosecco and hearing from Andrew Miller and Robert Youngs who have been working on the fourth edition since January.

#### Anthony Beckles Willson

Robert Youngs explained how, in 1990, Tony Beckles Willson, a retired architect, was 'invited' to produce the first edition of this book for the Association. In his retirement, Tony had developed an interest in our most famous 18th century resident, Alexander Pope. Pope's life and literary legacy have been researched, analysed and discussed by scholars worldwide almost ad infinitum since his death 270 years ago but Tony's interest in Pope led him to research the Bard of Twickenham's local connections and his neighbours more thoroughly than any scholar before. His four books on Pope describe aspects of his life in Twickenham and his achievements from a very local perspective - in this respect they are complementary to the corpus of previously published material on Pope. All are widely appreciated and enjoyed by scholars and the general public worldwide. His determination to preserve the only remaining part of Pope's estate led him to write the definitive guide to the history and contents of the grotto and to form the Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust. The guide book remains the Trust's most popular publication and conservation of the grotto started last week. It is, of course, regrettable that Tony didn't live to see the result of his tireless work.

Two stories illustrate his concern that our rich local history should not be buried and supplanted by commercial imperatives. In 2009, the owners of The Pope's Grotto Hotel, Youngs Brewery, decided they wished to project a more exciting, dynamic and modern image for their pub and so they decided to change the name to 'The Alexander'. When the new and expensive signage was erected at the front of the building, local residents were outraged. The Strawberry Hill Residents' Association asked Tony to intervene and he wrote a reasoned letter to John Young, the Chairman of the Brewery, explaining the significance of Alexander Pope to the area. A compromise was reached, the signage was replaced at great expense and the pub became 'The Alexander Pope' - a relatively minor change but one which keeps Pope's name visible on Cross Deep opposite the site of his Villa.

Then in 2012, a planning application for a new Sainsbury's Local on Twickenham Green was submitted. The application included a design for the shopfront in which the windows were to be filled with seven-foot high, coloured images of apples, bread, grapes etc. - completely inappropriate and out of keeping with the surrounding 18th and 19th century buildings. Tony worked with Sainsbury's on a set of images of some of the original buildings and monuments around the Green and wrote a short description for each one. These stand there today on what must be the most tastefully decorated supermarket in the area.



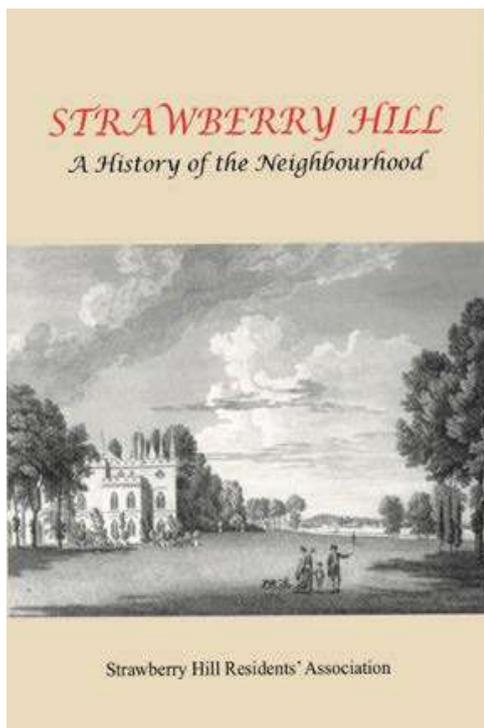
Munira Wilson MP receives a copy of the book

## History & Heritage

In 2010, it became necessary to revise and reprint this book and he invited me to help him. I became aware that he had completely mastered computer technology and the internet, but I was particularly impressed how he employed his skill as a draftsman, acquired as a practising architect, to illustrate his books with maps and plans. The original artwork had long since been lost (except for his beautifully drawn maps) so we ripped a copy apart, scanned the text and created a new, updated version in a format which could be used by future editors. However, together with his meticulous research, his interest in typography and a sharp eye for design and layout, this book and his other publications are almost entirely the works of one man. This new edition is 90% Tony's – most of the text is unchanged from the last, and therefore the first, edition and the maps are the same as the ones in the first edition. Andrew will tell you about the major changes and additions but this book, his other works and the conserved grotto remain as Tony's considerable legacy.

### The fourth edition

I would like to thank the local history sub-committee of SHRA: **David Cornwell**, former Chairperson; **Peter Lamb**, local historian; **Robert Youngs**, of Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust and formerly SHRA Committee member; and **Mike Cherry**, of Borough of Twickenham Local History Society, who all started off the project and were involved in reading drafts. As Robert has shown the reproduction of the fourth edition is superior to the third edition and it is also longer, at 117 pages compared to 84 pages. **Anthony Beckles Willson**, in his introduction, explains that his primary interest is in topography/streets and buildings and he says that other books deal with the famous characters such as Walpole and Pope. Indeed he has a particular interest in the large houses that covered this area in the 18th and 19th centuries and the minor aristocracy that lived in them. He is much less interested in the 20th century history. And in this respect we have departed from his blueprint. However, while keeping all the original text we have added to it in four significant ways:



Cover of the SHRA-published local history book

**(1)** We have included more 20th century history – not least bringing the story of **Strawberry Hill House** on from 1925 to the present and the same for St Mary's University. We have added material covering the two World Wars – including a roll of honour for WW1 based on Peter Lamb's Hunt for Heroes series in the SHRA Bulletin.

**(2)** We have added the stories of notable individuals who lived in Strawberry Hill – some of these have been unearthed through the SHRA-initiated Streetwise history of our streets and the House History service. In this way, we encountered Strawberry Hill's own suffragette, the tragic Henrietta Fergus who lived in Milton House, Wellesley Road, and Griffith Brewer, the first Englishman to fly, who lived in Batcombe Lodge, Pope's Avenue, among several others who are profiled in the book.

**(3)** We have added to the vox pop of people who remember bygone Strawberry Hill – Tony did this through interviews but we have done it more through using Twickenham and Teddington History Group on Facebook – in this way we learned about the curriculum at Pope's Avenue Primary School which people remembered their relatives attending. This Facebook Group was also a great source of images of historic Strawberry Hill and we also received a lot of help from Janine Stanford and the team at the Richmond Local Studies Library – which is a fantastic local resource.

**(4)** We have made the book easier to navigate by, for the first time, including a street and buildings index – covering the 42 streets and closes of Strawberry Hill, as well as the environs such as Twickenham Green, Heath Road and Hampton Road. **To order a copy please email SHRA at [contact@shra.org.uk](mailto:contact@shra.org.uk).** The price is £8 with free delivery within Strawberry Hill. Price for non-Strawberry Hill purchasers is **£10 (including p&p).**

### Strawberry Hill Heritage Trail No. 1

SHRA is pleased to announce the publication of the first heritage trail for Strawberry Hill. This is a 4k walk which starts and finishes at Strawberry Hill station. Twenty points of interest are indicated on the route with notes on each site and stopping point. The trail was devised by Andrew Miller and Peter Lamb. It can be downloaded from the SHRA website but it can also be found on LBRuT's VisitRichmond site and we hope it may attract more visitors to enjoy the heritage of Strawberry Hill.

Strawberry Hill Heritage Trail - Self Guided Trail in Twickenham, Richmond Upon Thames - VisitRichmond

## Business Pages

### Zoe Prindiville visits Strawberry Hill Golf Club

Tucked away in a quiet and leafy part of Twickenham and located five minutes' walk from Strawberry Hill Station, is Strawberry Hill Golf Club, with its compact, challenging nine-hole course for golfers of all abilities. The green space is owned by Richmond Council and leased to the Club.



Strawberry Hill Golf Club Information & Green Fee Prices		
Weekdays		
	18 Holes	9 Holes
Visitors	£35.00	£22.50
Guest of Member	£25.00	£15.00
Juniors (only 1 guest)	£15.00	£12.00
Weekends & Bank Holidays-after 1pm only		
	18 Holes	9 Holes
Visitors	£40.00	£27.50
Guest of Member	£30.00	£20.00
Juniors (only 1 guest)	£14.00	£14.00

Include of £1 golfers insurance White Tees 1st 9 holes Black Tees 2nd 9 holes  
No visitor may pay the reduced green fee more than 10 times any calendar year

#### History

The Club was formally founded in 1902 and the first membership log lists a total of 180 members (115 Men and 65 Ladies) with a Club Professional, Ernest Newbery. Entrance fees were three guineas for gentlemen and two guineas for ladies, while annual subscriptions were two guineas and one guinea, respectively. The club enjoyed a healthy social life with whist and bridge playing and social evenings. The men's annual smoking concert was also a great success – something that seems unimaginable nowadays!

The course was designed in 1900 by J H Taylor, one of the pioneers of the modern game of golf. Among his other achievements, he won the Open Championship five times, formed the PGA, and designed Royal Birkdale, still a regular Open venue. Strawberry Hill has remained largely unchanged since it was first laid out and still bears Taylor's familiar hallmarks, including the small humps and hollows on several holes which look harmless yet catch many players out on a regular basis!

#### Recent history

1983 saw the opening of the new clubhouse, and moving with the times, a new constitution was agreed in 1998 confirming equal rights at Strawberry Hill for male and female members.

As part of the Centenary celebrations in 2000, the Mayor planted the centenary oak tree between the 1st and 9th fairway. Since 2010, all members have played from the same tees. Although the par for the course, Course Rating and Slope Rating are different for men and women, there is one course for everyone.

The current Club Professional, Peter Buchan, offers adult and junior lessons, one to one or group lessons, beginner or perfectionist sessions! The scale of the course makes Strawberry Hill the ideal place to learn, as while it offers a good level of challenge, its compact size makes it less intimidating than a full-scale course.

#### Volunteer of the Year

Local resident, Alan Plumb, is this year's Volunteer of the Year, voted for by England Golf. He is involved in all areas of club life, from juniors to seniors, with a particular interest and focus on the 'Get into Golf' programme and work with local schools for children with special needs. On the opposite end of the age spectrum, Alan has also helped older golfers get into the game. He even helps the green staff or in the clubhouse if something needs doing, despite a hip replacement!

#### The Clubhouse

With views over the 9th hole, in-house catering and a well-stocked bar, the clubhouse is also an ideal venue to hire for a variety of events and celebrations, including the christening of the writer's two sons, and the SHRA AGM. However, there is also a thriving social scene for members – Burns' Night supper, quizzes, wine tasting and golf evenings for families. The Club is actively welcoming new members, both golfers and social members, so get down to the fairway, take a walk around the beautiful greens and try to lower your handicap!



Strawberry Hill Golf Club Green

Strawberry Hill Golf Clubhouse

