

House Histories

The history of the houses of Strawberry Hill

17 Spencer Road



**Written by Andrew Miller for Strawberry Hill Residents' Association
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House histories – 17 Spencer Road

In the spring 2019 issue of the Strawberry Hill Residents' Association Bulletin an offer was made to all residents of the area. Peter Lamb of the SHRA Committee had offered a service which would involve research on the history of the houses of Strawberry Hill. This fits with another undertaking by SHRA to research and publish, via its website, a number of street histories under the name, *Streetwise*. Clearly, the two projects are linked as streets comprise collections of individual houses.

A team of SHRA local historians are working on the project and, at the time of writing, we are working on eight house histories. In return for the time of the volunteer researchers, householders in receipt of a report on their house history, are invited to make a donation to SHRA (the suggested donation is £25).

At a minimum, the work involves:

- searching through various online genealogical databases, e.g. Ancestry, find my past, for Census data and other records;
- searching the British Newspaper Archive for references to the street and house residents;
- visiting the Local Studies Centre in Richmond town centre to view records, especially Kelly's director or Electoral rolls to find out the names of householders after 1911;
- writing a report to present a coherent house history (going as far as 2000 – we did not want to intrude too much on recent residents).

House history – 17 Spencer Road

Spencer Road had been laid out in the 1880s and can be viewed in the 1894 OS Map devoid of housing. The 1915 OS Map shows 17 houses on the North side of the street running from Pope's Avenue to Walpole Gardens. The house does not appear in the 1901 Census and so can be dated to the Edwardian era and the first recorded occupation is in 1911. Numbers 2-15 were occupied by 1906 but the builder, Richard Ord, was submitting plans for numbers 16-17 between 1906 and 1911. In any event the house was occupied by the time of the 1911 Census (it may need an examination of the house deeds and records to know exactly when it was first occupied).

1911-1924 – The Kup family

The householder in 1911 was Conrade Frank Wilson Kup (1877-1931) who was born in Bahia, Brazil. He was an Assistant Secretary and Accountant. In 1899, he married Ethel Grace Boltler (1872-1949) and they had three children, Frederick Conrade (1899-1986; he was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Engineers during WWI), Ethel Lily Sophia (b.1902 in

Teddington) and Geoffrey Frank (1913-1981; a Colonel in the Royal Artillery). In 1911, Ethel's sister Theresa Sophia Bolttler (b.1872) lived with them 'on private means'.

1924-1934 – The Wagstaff Family

At this time, the house was occupied by George Leonard Wagstaff (1890-1975) who was a chartered accountant who had been born in Essex. He was married to Kathleen Wagstaff (b.1892). Also living in the house was Catherine Barclay (b.1866) who was disabled. They moved on to live elsewhere in the area – 3 Walpole Gardens in 1934 and The Croft, Twickenham, in 1938. In 1939, George was a chartered accountant and secretary of the Phoenix Assurance Company.

1934-1938 – The Heward family

Ronald William Heward (1909-1946) was a surgical appliance manufacturer with Care Gilmont Products who was born in Walton-on-Thames. In 1930, he married Alice Buckles Hulme (1909-1988) in Nottinghamshire and they had two children.

1937-1938 – The Bennett family

The house was occupied by John Adam Bennett (d.24.3.1950) and his wife Jean Duncan Bennett (d.27.10.1969). Mary McGinty also lived in the house.

1939-1947 – vacant for the 1939 Register and no electoral rolls updated during the War.

1947-1948 – Jones/Lewis

Two women were sharing the house or it was divided into two apartments during the War. They were Betty Lewis and Mary Jones (common names and hard to find out any more about them).

1949 – Malyon/Price/Talbot

In 1949, three women lived in the house: Eva Annie Malyon (1898-1977), Patricia G. Price and Mabel Talbot. In 1950, Eva lived at The Elms, 1 Strawberry Hill Road, a large house so she may have worked in domestic service.

1950 - vacant

1951-1953 – The Lilley family

Reginald and his wife, Mary Apps (or Jenkins), lived at No.17. They had married at Uckfield in 1946.

1954-1956 – The Taylor and Bates families

During this period, the house was shared by two families: Christopher and Alfreda Taylor, and Dennis A. Bates and Hazel M. Bates.

1957-1967 – The Bates and Freeman families

The Bates continued to live in the house and were joined by Robert W. Freeman and his wife, Joan M. Freeman. In 1960, Dennis A., Arnold Anthony and Doris Elizabeth Bates were on the Electoral Roll. In 1961, the Freemans had moved to 7 Michelham Gardens.

1967-1974

In this period, the three Bates's lived in the house and they were joined by Alice M. Hopper from 1971.

1975-1977

During this period, there are no names on the Electoral Roll so the house may have been empty.

1978-1983

Leonard E. Richardson (1908-) and Eunice J. Richardson (1915-) lived in the house with Christine Steer. Leonard was a manager in a paint factory (in 1939) Register, and he also serve as an ARP Warden during the War.

1984-1987

William D., Richard P. and Hilary J Keatinge lived in the house.

1988

No names on the Electoral Roll.

1989-1991

Kiaw Ai Han and Kean Chee Ng lived in the house.

1991-1994

Jeremy S. Anthony (b.1955 in Surrey) and Elizabeth L. Anthony (b.1954-1956) lived in the house. They moved to Teddington and in 2003 they were living at 159 Park Road.

1995-1996

No names on the Electoral Roll.

1997-1998

Michael P. Martin and Julie A. Martin lived in the house. Michael had married Julie Barratt at Richmond in 1988.

1999-2001

Jane C. Storer-Taylor (b.1960-1962) and Wesley H. Taylor lived in the house.