

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.

We are pleased to report that following the publication of the fourth, fully revised and updated edition of our local history book, *Strawberry Hill: A History of the Neighbourhood*, we have only 100 left from our 250 print run. We can still deliver copies to your door in Strawberry Hill for £8 – an ideal Christmas present.



The Big Family Picnic

In this edition we are delighted to feature the largest SHRA event for several years, the **Big Family Picnic** in the grounds of Strawberry Hill House on 4 September. We have already fixed a date for next year's Big Family Picnic of **Sunday 25 June**. We are also pleased to announce that '**Carols in the Village**', the annual SHRA carol-singing and decoration of the Christmas tree, is going ahead on **Friday 9 December 6-7.30pm at Wellesley Parade**, with Richmond Brass Band providing the music. The monthly litter picks around the Village have been taking place on the second Saturday of the month since July and we are pleased to announce our plans for two **Big Litter Picks** covering all Strawberry Hill on 1 April and the 7 October 2023.

We are very pleased that so many local businesses and St Mary's University have been able to provide essential sponsorship. However, the bad news is that, since the Bulletin went online, subscriptions from residents are £340 down on previous years. If you value the Association and its activities, then please start or renew your sponsorship using the information on the [Subscription Form](#).

If you enjoy reading The Bulletin, then please recommend it to friends and neighbours who can get it to their Inbox by emailing us at Bulletin@shra.org.uk. They can also register to receive SHRA communications on the Home page of our website (www.shra.org.uk).

Andrew Miller, Chair, SHRA

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In this issue:

Local Issues : Councillor Richard Bennett, Leader of the Green Group and Leader of the Opposition, writes about important issues in his role representing residents in South Twickenham. June Collins provides a crime report featuring important safety information for women and girls.. [CLICK HERE](#)

The Association : Andrew Miller reports on the South Western Railway Station Adoption Scheme and the SHRA meeting with the Vice Chancellor of St Mary's University. Committee members Pam Crisp and Peter Lamb are profiled. [CLICK HERE](#)

Green Pages : Louisa Carradine and Andrew Miller discuss the monthly SHRA litter picks in the Village and announce plans for two SHRA Big Litter Picks in 2023. [CLICK HERE](#)

Events : Julia Fiehn reviews the first Big Family Picnic and highlights the forthcoming 'Carols in the Village' on 9 December. [CLICK HERE](#)

Heritage & History : Andrew Miller describes the history of the Royal British Legion house, Thornton Lodge, at 95 Pope's Grove. Bethan Wood tells the macabre story of Horace Walpole's iconic Goldfish Bowl, now on permanent display. [CLICK HERE](#)

Business : Zoe Prindiville provides profiles for two of our longest-running Village businesses, Kyzan and MKG3000. [CLICK HERE](#)

Local Issues

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

Councillor's Update

Councillor Richard Bennett, Leader of the Green Group & Leader of the Opposition, London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames

Council Finances

An atmosphere of gloom and despondency pervades all local government. I receive a monthly bulletin from the Local Government Association. The style and content are generally moderate in tone. So, it is notable that November's issue has article headings that ring alarm bells. "Public services at breaking point". "Councils creaking under the strain" and "Budgets destroyed by inflation".

The Government has been cutting back central government grants, in real terms, since 2010 from £41bn to £26bn. Council tax has increased by 25% in real terms to partly fill the gap. The new problem is inflation, with the Government's last financial settlement assuming 4% inflation, rather than the 10% being experienced. This is unlikely to be recovered and a leaner financial settlement from Government is expected. Even financially prudent Richmond Borough is forecasting a £16.2m budget gap in 23/24.

It is apparent that it will not be solely service cuts or drawing on reserves or council tax increases, but, more probably, all three will be necessary. It means some lively discussions are in prospect about our priorities in the next few years and the budget for 23/24.

Richmond Borough - How We Live

This year I opted to be on the Adult Social Services, Housing and Health Committee. I am also on the Health & Well-being Board, which is a forum for our health professionals. There is a wealth of research and information on the health of Borough residents. If only there was more resource to address the problems it identifies. Everyone wants to do more preventative work but resources dictate that at an operational level it is predominantly reactive. Some relevant statistics from our Borough include:

- Population estimate 200,705;
- 50% of over 75 year olds live alone;
- 18,000 people provide unpaid care;
- Self-harm in 10-14 year olds is below the London rate, but among 15-19s it is double and among 20-24 it is triple;
- The estimate is that only half of those with Type 2 Diabetes have been diagnosed;
- About 15% of people are at high risk of Type 2 Diabetes (in Wandsworth it is 43%);
- In Reception classes 4.7% of children are obese (lowest in England), although this becomes 11% by Year 6.

Adult Social Care is the Council's biggest cost. However, one in five residential care workers are living in poverty and low pay impacts on recruitment and retention. We are responding to a Government initiative for greater integration of services. There is a great willingness for mutual aid and collaboration, and a consensus that this shouldn't just result in more meetings.

Local Issues

Crime in Strawberry Hill

by June Collins

The last Police Liaison Group meeting which was scheduled for 12 September was unfortunately cancelled so, as a consequence, there is less to report in your regular crime update. The South Twickenham Neighbourhood Policing Team comprises: Police Sergeant Rumi Miah; Police Constable Jon Pickerill; Police Constable Raymond Sullivan; and PCSO Kyle Mackenzie (Tel: 0208 247 7015 / @MPSSTwickenham / SouthTwickenham@met.police.uk).

Crime Figures;

The most recent crime figures maintain Strawberry Hill's (part of South Twickenham Ward) reputation as a low-crime neighbourhood. The monthly crime figures for September have crimes at 3 per 1,000 people in our Ward compared to 5/1,000 in Richmond as a whole and 8/1,000 in London. The top reported crimes for September were: theft from a vehicle 5; assault without injury 4; and harassment 4. In August, in total 36 crimes were reported in South Twickenham. The top-reported crimes were: anti-social behaviour 13; vehicle crime 5; violence and sexual offences 5; bicycle theft 3.



Catalytic Converter Theft;

Increasingly a common theft from vehicles is the removal of catalytic converters which contain valuable metals and which can be removed quickly. Hybrids are most commonly targeted with the Honda Jazz, Toyota Auris, Honda CRV and Lexus being most at risk. Secured by Design is an official police security initiative which has a lot of information to help prevent this crime (www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/crime-prevention-advice/vehicle-crime/catalytic-converter-theft). You can help prevent theft by etching security details into the converter. Catalytic converter marker kits are provided free to the public by Richmond Police via Kwik Fit Twickenham (**telephone 0208 892 1491 to make an appointment**).

Domestic Abuse;

We can report that the one-stop shop for advice on domestic abuse has been open since June, every Friday 10am-12pm at Hampton Hill Citizens Advice, 1st Floor, 94-102 High Street, Hampton Hill, TW12 1NY. The current plans are for the advice centre to stay open until March 2023. The Domestic Abuse Service for Richmond opened in November 2021. It is provided by an organisation called Hestia (**call on 0203 879 3544** or email RichWan.IDVA@Hestia.org). You can report controlling, bullying behaviour or violent behaviour via the Met website: <https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/daa/domestic-abuse/how-to-report-domestic-abuse/>

Go Girl Project

The Richmond Safer Neighbourhood Board has launched Go Girl, a woman's safety project, to help women and girls stay safe on the streets, while travelling, in clubs and bars, and on public transport. The project trains women in the use of practical, survival skills (www.richmond.gov.uk/safer_neighbourhood_board - scroll down the page to find Go Girl). You can download the excellent guide, Rise, Shine and Go, Girl, from here. There is also a Street Safe pilot project which has a useful tool which you can also access at www.police.uk/streetsafe.

<https://resilienceprogramme.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Safer-Neighbourhood-Board-Go-Girl-Brochure-2021.pdf>

The Association

SWR Station Adoption Scheme – railway enthusiasts required!

In the previous Bulletin, Mary Hughes, our Roads & Transport Coordinator reported on the possibility of SHRA joining South Western Railway's (SWR) 'Station Adoption' programme. Subsequently, we had a Microsoft Teams meeting with Paula Aldridge, Community Rail Manager, South Western Railway, and David Wilby, Regional Development Manager, who has a role for stakeholder engagement and infrastructure in our Borough (and five other London boroughs). Before a station-adoption scheme is accepted, they have to be approved by various teams at SWT, as safety is the major concern.



Strawberry Hill Station - Adopt a Station Scheme

David said that the SWR team would be painting 'zone' messaging on the platform to show people where to stand for different carriages. He also said that SWR is keeping guards on trains, unlike other providers. Andrew Miller explained that the SHRA objectives in its Constitution are consistent with joining the station-adoption scheme, as it is about local residents acting to enhance the amenities provided by their local station.

Ideas for improving the station

An obvious possibility is planting the wild flowerbeds on platform 2 in line with SHRA already caring for the planter in Tower Road. SWR made it clear that there was a 'no digging policy' because of the risk of old, unmarked cables. Groups can plant flowers etc but only in a planter or pots. These would require too much cost and maintenance, so are currently ruled out. SHRA has a particular interest in promoting the Strawberry Hill heritage assets, such as Pope's Grotto and Strawberry Hill House, and would consider developing some 'heritage boards' to place on the wall on platforms 1 or 2. Other ideas are: 'art boards' to display artwork from local artists or school children; a book exchange scheme for the waiting room; a mural, on the side of the footbridge.

Our main takeaway was that, before joining the scheme, it is desirable to have a firm idea of what you want to progress, rather than joining and, then, planning what to do. So, before proceeding it is important to work up a realistic-costed proposal with some names identified to take responsibility for progressing the plans. Currently, the SHRA Committee members are occupied with their roles and it would need willing volunteers from among local residents, who have an interest in improving the station, to step forward.

After dinner speech to Twickenham-upon-Thames Rotary Club

Our Chair, Andrew Miller, was invited to give an after-dinner talk to The Twickenham-upon-Thames Rotary Club on Tuesday 18 October at The Winning Post on the Chertsey Road, Whitton. Grace Gibbs, Club Secretary had invited Andrew to speak about the SHRA-published local history book, Strawberry Hill: A history of the neighbourhood. An audience of 30 Rotarians listened while Andrew told the story of Strawberry Hill through six buildings and the colourful characters who lived in them: Henry Labouchere in Pope's Villa; James Lewis in Thornton Lodge; Griffith Brewer in Batcombe Lodge; Jack Whitehead in Cross Deep Lodge; Henrietta Fergus in Milton House; and Anne Kerr MP in Willow Grange. After the presentation, supported by slides with photographs, there was a lively discussion.

The Association



Anthony McClaran meeting SHRA Chair

SHRA Meeting with St Mary's University

As part of its role in representing the interests of Strawberry Hill it is vital that SHRA has a good relationship with the most significant employer in our area, the University. There are regular meetings scheduled throughout the year between Anthony McClaran, Vice Chancellor, and Andrew Miller, Chair of SHRA, supported by Peter Lamb, whose key role is liaison with SMU.

The most recent meeting was held at the University on 6 October when Chris Paget, Director of Estates & Campus Services was also in attendance. Anthony McClaran pointed out that SMU had risen in the HE rankings this year on the three most significant tables – The Times, The Guardian and the Complete University Guide. In the Complete University Guide, they rose 34 places in the ranking and were the 'single most improved' institution. He attributed this to the improvement in the research excellence rankings and a 'stellar performance' in the National Student Survey.

Chris Paget described several works that would be undertaken during the next twelve months. These included:

- a new entrance to the Waldegrave Suite and a lift to allow disabled access;
- work in 13 Waldegrave Park to create studio apartments;
- work on the residential blocks on campus to provide self-catering facilities;
- improvements to the suite of computer rooms;
- increasing the size of the refectory.

He stressed that all developments were essentially inward-facing and would be sympathetic to existing buildings and the heritage, aiming to improve the quality of what is there already.

We also discussed the e-scooter pilot in Richmond and noted that SMU were in talks with the Council about locating a parking bay within the University campus. We all agreed that the extension of the CPZ to Waldegrave Road has had the effect of shifting student cars but the absence of vehicles has done nothing to slow traffic and the bend near the SMU exit (opposite Waldegrave Gardens) continues to be a hazard.

As part of the partnership between SHRA and the University it was agreed that SMU would:

- display a poster in the students' union inviting students to join the SHRA Village Litter Pick;
- allow a member of the SHRA Committee to join a first-aid-training course at the University;
- continue to allow the use of meeting rooms for SHRA Committee meetings free of charge;
- SMU would sponsor the SHRA Christmas tree and 'Carols in the Village'.

The Association

Profile of SHRA Committee members

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



Peter Lamb, Local Historian & St Mary's University Liaison

I have resided in the Borough of Richmond since 1977, but when my wife and I were looking to move out of town from our flat in Barnes, good friends who lived in Strawberry Hill said "Why leave London? Come to Strawberry Hill." So, we did, and have lived here in the same house since 1984. An aeon ago I studied languages at King's College London and history at the London School of Economics. I taught for 36 years and retirement in 2010 at last gave me time to devote to painting, a pastime that had been on the back burner for decades. I have exhibited locally and feel blessed to live in an area where the arts are so ardently supported. As a SHRA committee member for ten years, my main role is to liaise with SMU and contribute to the history of Strawberry Hill. When we commemorated the centenary of the Great War, I wrote pieces for the Bulletin – Hunt for Heroes - about residents who had served in the armed forces.



Pamela Crisp, Secretary

I was born and brought up in North Wales and moved to London when I was 18. As my career with Marks & Spencer progressed, I began working in Richmond in 1975 so my connection with the borough goes back a long time! I moved to Strawberry Hill 40 years ago and have been a Committee member of SHRA since 2007 and secretary for 14 years. Having been responsible for, amongst other things, distribution of the Bulletin, the adopt-a-site scheme for monitoring the recycling site, the Christmas tree and carol singing event, I now update the website and Twitter account. Strawberry Hill continued to be a convenient place to live, despite my career taking me to different town centres in the area, and then to central London and Stockley Park. My children both went to school locally and I was a school and college governor for 20 years. I think we are very lucky to live in such a lovely area. I volunteer regularly at Strawberry Hill House and occasionally at Pope's Grotto. I also enjoy the easy access we have for walking by the River Thames, the River Crane (a lockdown discovery) and Bushy Park.

The Association

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION:

Your contribution is vital in allowing SHRA to maintain and develop its events and activities including litter picks, the Big Family Picnic, the planter, the Bulletin, local history, protecting the heritage and monitoring planning applications. We also maintain a fund for legal fees which are required if there is a need to challenge local planning decisions. All Committee members are volunteers. The suggested subscription fee is £5-£10 annually per household (April-March).

You can pay by BACs, Standing order or cheque.

BACs - please email the Treasurer (june.collins@hotmail.com) when making a BACs payment so we know what it is for and who you are. Details:

NatWest Account Name: *Strawberry Hill Residents' Association*

Sort Code: 55-50-39

Account Number: 71550410

Standing order – please email the Treasurer (june.collins@hotmail.com) for a SO form.

Cheques payable to *Strawberry Hill Residents' Association*, drop in or post to June Collins, *23b Tower Road*, TW1 4PD OR Post Office, 50 Tower Road, TW1 4PE (please enclose a note with your name, address and email).

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION : Your contribution is gratefully received and helps maintain the planters near the station, assists in publication costs and allows us to run and manage the AGM's as well as funds for possible local legal and planning requirements. All committee members are volunteers.
Suggested subscription fee is **£5-£10 annually per household**.

Cheques to Strawberry Hill Resident's Association

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ **POSTCODE:** _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

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C : Standing order forms are available from the Treasurer email:

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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

 [@SHResidents](https://twitter.com/SHResidents)

 [Strawberry_Hill_RA](https://www.instagram.com/Strawberry_Hill_RA)

 [Strawberry Hill Residents' Association](https://www.facebook.com/StrawberryHillResidentsAssociation)

Green Pages

By Louisa Carradine & Andrew Miller

SHRA Monthly Litter Picks

The Village Litter Pick began on Saturday 9 July 2022 and there have now been five such events held on the second Saturday of the month from 9-10am. We chose Saturday because it is the day after the weekly rubbish collection which (experience suggests) can lead to an increase in litter which has fallen from the plastic containers. Habitats & Heritage has provided us with litter pickers, rings and clear bags to use on our picks. Residents are invited to join members of the Committee for the picks, meeting by the SHRA bench in Wellesley Parade. The initiative was launched by Louisa Carradine, one of SHRA's environment coordinators, as a practical initiative to help reach our objective of maintaining the litter-free environment of the Village.

2023 Litter Pick dates (all Saturdays) –
14 January,
11 February,
11 March,
1 April – the First Big Litter Pick,
13 May,
10 June.

The litter picks have attracted growing interest from residents, e.g. on September's pick there were six residents and four committee members. This has enabled the team to widen the area of the pick beyond the initial Wellesley and Tower Roads to include Strawberry Hill Road, the alley by the station and the bottom of Pope's Avenue. In October's pick we stretched the area to include the whole of Pope's Avenue and Orford Gardens, as well as the playground in Wellesley Road. We have also found out that there are already several public-spirited residents who pick regularly in the street around where they live. Some of these people have joined us on our picks.



Volunteers

We have advertised the litter picks on the SHRA noticeboard at Strawberry Hill Station and in shops in Tower Road. We have extended the litter picking posters to St Mary's University to encourage some students to join us in cleaning up the neighbourhood. We advise those joining us to beware of the traffic, as it is easy to be carried away looking down and lose sight of where you are in relation to the road. SHRA does have public-liability insurance which helps protect our volunteers.



Litter Pick Team

Many volunteers have said how therapeutic they find the litter pick and how fast time flies. Some have come as a family, encouraging their children to be more aware of the need for keeping streets clean by not littering. Litter pickers find it especially annoying when they have to pick up piles of soggy cigarette ends where inconsiderate drivers have emptied car ash trays in the gutter. Another regular issue is people leaving food in black bags that have been abandoned near the recycling centre at Wellesley Parade with the predictable results of them being torn to shreds by foxes and the contents scattered across the road and pavement. However, most residents are doing a good job of using the correct bins and we are fortunate that Strawberry Hill streets are relatively clean.

The Big SHRA Litter Pick

Next year we are planning for two Big Litter Picks to build on the success of the monthly Village Litter Picks – on **1 April** and **7 October**. The aim would be to engage more residents in litter picking their own, and possibly, neighbouring streets. This is already happening in Wellesley Road/Shafesbury Way and, maybe, elsewhere. A target would be to cover 75% of streets with an ultimate goal of covering 100% of streets including Radnor Gardens (the park).

Events

By Julia Fiehn

The First SHRA Big Family Picnic

The Big Family Picnic was the largest event that SHRA has put on since the 50th anniversary party in Radnor Gardens in 2015. It was held between 4-6pm on Sunday 4 September on the lawn in front of Strawberry Hill House and featured children's classics performed by Richmond Brass Band and Jolly Julie, a children's entertainer. Altogether about 100 local residents attended including 30 young children.



Richmond Brass Band

The Chair welcomed visitors and explained the programme for the afternoon which also featured a Best-dressed Teddy Bear competition and a colouring-in challenge with prizes for over- and under-fives. On entry, visitors were given tokens which could be exchanged for various goodies on the 'Treats Table'. Pam Crisp, SHRA Secretary, (who also volunteers at the House) staffed the dressing-up area, where children could choose from various 18th century outfits and have their picture taken in front of the House. Several SHRA stewards, in their new pink high-vis livery, patrolled the car park and the perimeters of the picnic area.

Events

The Big Family Picnic was the first major new event organised by SHRA's pair of events coordinators, Cathy Bird and Julia Fiehn. We felt it addressed the new SHRA constitution objective, 'to promote community spirit'. It was deliberately aimed at families with young children in Strawberry Hill and it was the first product of the partnership between SHRA and Strawberry Hill House. The timing, in the late afternoon, was because it had to be held after the House closed for visitors at 4pm on a Sunday. The event was advertised via the SHRA and LBRuT noticeboards and at shops in the Village, and online. People booked their free tickets via Eventbrite, which we limited to 150 on this first occasion. A risk assessment was carried out to identify potential risks and to plan for control measures. The organising team were anxious in the days leading up to the event, as the weather forecast was constantly shifting, with heavy rain sometimes predicted, and, therefore, the risk of cancellation. In the event, the weather was perfect.



Jolly Julie Spinning Plates

A three-year old's perspective

My family and I came along to the SHRA Big Picnic on an unexpectedly sunny September afternoon. From the outset my three year-old daughter, Lucy, was intrigued by the set-up. While the baby explored the picnic rug and basket, she made her presence known by running straight across to assess the merits of Richmond Brass Band (and find out if they took requests) before asking the SHRA Chair for a turn on the mic during his welcome speech.

Fortunately, that didn't blot her copybook, and she still managed to snag an impressive haul of lollipops and chocolate crackle cakes. She had fun playing dress-up with the period costumes provided by Strawberry Hill House ("I love my waistcoat. I want to wear it to nursery!") and meeting all the Teddy Bears competing for the Best Costume prize, but the big hit of the afternoon was the magic from Jolly Julie. The entertainer instantly won over her young audience, who participated enthusiastically, giggled with abandon and were all clamouring to be chosen for the role of glamorous assistant from the outset. Lucy's review of the day? "Can we go there again, Mummy?"



Events

By Julia Fiehn

Evaluation

An evaluation of the Big Family Picnic was important as we needed to identify learning points, if the exercise was going to be repeated. This was discussed at the recent SHRA Committee meeting and it was decided that the Picnic was a qualified success in that those attending (like Lucy and her Mum) had a lovely time. The major disappointment was the number of people booking tickets and then failing to use them – which we understand is a general problem with ‘free events’. The event was also relatively expensive and members of the Committee subsidised the event from their own pockets. Nevertheless the 2023 Big Family Picnic at Strawberry Hill House grounds has been set for Sunday 25 June. The SHRA events team would like to hear from residents who have ideas for future events to promote community spirit within Strawberry Hill. For example, it is suggested that SHRA could host residents’ evenings with the Royal British Legion (or other venue) for a fish-and-chip supper preceded by talk on the history of Strawberry Hill (or other subjects of local interest).



‘Carols in the Village’ – Friday 9 December

The annual SHRA Christmas event will take place on Friday 9 December at the usual venue of Wellesley Parade between 18.00-19.30pm. This year we are calling the event ‘Carols in the Village’ and it will be advertised in shop windows, on SHRA social media, in Richmond Council News and on lampposts in the vicinity. Music will be provided for your family-favourite carols by our good friends, the Richmond Brass Band. Children will be encouraged to help decorate the large Christmas tree that will light up the area until early January. We are also locating a wooden (Christmas-tree-shaped) obelisk in the SHRA planter in Tower Road with festive lights. Mulled wine and mince pies will be available for added warmth and there will be treats for children.

Regrettably the price of Christmas is also susceptible to the cost of living crisis and we find that the annual LBRuT grant no longer covers the costs of putting on this event. The principal grant funding comes from LBRuT and there is some new funding from St Mary’s University. Consequently, our Business Liaison Committee member, John Tjaardstra, has been working hard to meet with our businesses and seeking sponsorship for this event.



SHRA Carols and the Brass Band - Christmas 2021

We are very pleased that the following businesses have agreed to sponsor this long-running fixture in the story of Strawberry Hill – Architecture WK Ltd, Brightlife Chemist, Jawbone Brewing, Kyzan, Riverside Supermarket, Sopa Thai Restaurant, Strawberry Hill Golf Club, Strawberry Hill Local & Post Office, Twickenham Body Health and Young’s Brewery/Alexander Pope Hotel. We are grateful for the support of our business and community partners.

History & Heritage

Thornton Lodge, 95 Pope's Grove A SHRA House History

By Andrew Miller with special thanks to Richard West (of the Lewis family)



Thornton Lodge in 1930

Thornton Lodge dates from about 1860 and it has a typically eclectic Victorian façade. It stands next to St Catherine's School at 95 Pope's Grove and has been the home of the Twickenham branch of the Royal British Legion since 1936. But who lived in the house before it became the 'Legion'?

Ministers and Toovey-Hawleys

The first inhabitants were the Minister family. Edward Minister (1813-1900) was born in Finsbury and in 1859 he moved into Thornton Lodge from his home at 1 Arragon Villas, Twickenham. The family were living in the house for the censuses of 1861, 1871, 1881 and in the Polling District Book for 1886. He became editor and publisher of the *Gazette of Fashion & Cutting Room Companion: a Guide to Victorian Fashion*. The periodical was an essential handbook of Victorian male, female and children's fashion for the middle class.

At the time of the 1901 Census Thornton Lodge was occupied by William Henry Toovey-Hawley (1844-1923) who was a wine shipper's clerk born in Camden Town. He married Ayliffene (aka Ayffhene) Isabella Langford (1845-1910) on 14 December 1867 and they had five children. In 1901, the married Toovey-Hawleys lived with their unmarried 28-year-old daughter, Maude, at Thornton Lodge.

Lewis family

By 1904 the house was occupied by its final private residents, the Lewis family. James Henry Lewis (1856-1924) was born in Leigh, Worcestershire. In 1881, he married Annie Roff (1860-1930) at Great Malvern, Worcestershire. They had seven children in 15 years: Daisy Roff (1882-1953), May Winifred (1884-1957), Vincent James (1884-1917), Elizabeth Maud (1885-), Dorothy Evelyn (1889-1978), Hugh Portman (1891-) and Denys Mervyn (1897-1917).

James Lewis was a self-styled Professor of Music who founded the Victoria College of Music at 158 Holland Park Avenue. He received an honorary degree in music from an American religious University (University of South Tennessee) which many regarded as not a legitimate qualification. He was a composer who worked with the likes of Ivor Novello. There were also outreach centres across the country where people could take examinations. As an examiner, he received criticism for including his own compositions in the exams ahead of other well-known composers (e.g. Elgar), as he stood to gain from the purchase of his sheet music. He promoted church music and was a Warden of the Guild of Church Musicians. He was also the church organist at St Mary's in Twickenham. James's son Hugh Portman Lewis became Secretary of the College until 1959, when 60 years of leadership by the Lewis family ended.



James Lewis



Denys Lewis

History & Heritage

1914-1918

Three of the Lewis daughters served in the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VADs) of the Red Cross during World War 1. Vincent James Lewis (Reg no. 122382) was a bombardier in 'C' Battery 186th Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery. He died of wounds on 20 June 1917 and is buried at Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium. Denys Mervyn Lewis was a 2nd Lieutenant in 'C' Company in the 7th Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment when he was killed in action on 25 April 1917 (pictured right). He was just 19 when he was killed and he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. Hugh Portman Lewis (No. 508235) also served in the War as a private in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was gassed and was discharged on 13 March 1918 as unfit for duty.

Music Hall

James Henry Lewis had a brother called Walter who emigrated to Australia, arriving in Sydney on 30 September 1883. Walter had a son called Walter Harry Portman Lewis (1885-) who became a music-hall entertainer. He formed a song-and-dance act called 'Lewis and Little' with Amy Pennington, an English-born singer, and together they returned to England to work in the music halls. Apparently, they married in Ireland but their England address was given as Thornton Lodge. James and Annie also took to the stage where he appeared as an illusionist making his own wife disappear!

James Henry Lewis died on 25 November 1924 in the famous Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool where he was visiting to examine students for musical qualifications. He is buried in Twickenham Cemetery (section A/grave no.152) together with his wife and the names of sons, Denys and Vincent. Annie died on 15 December 1930.

Royal British Legion

According to Richard West, the ownership of Thornton Lodge is still 'a bit of a puzzle' following Annie's death. His mother (Annie's daughter) used to say that it was a Labour Government that took all the family money. Whether that meant that the property was handed over as part of death duties, Richard is unsure. However, it seems appropriate that having lost two sons in the War, and with three of their four daughters serving as VADs, that the property was bequeathed to the Royal British Legion.

Strawberry Hill House

Horace Walpole's Goldfish Bowl

By Bethan Wood, Marketing & Communications Manager

Readers may recall, that as part of Strawberry Hill's on-going In Focus displays, which feature objects and artworks that tell the extraordinary story of the House and its inhabitants, an 18th century Chinese porcelain vase was temporarily on loan. Thanks to the Derby Collection and Arts Council England's Acceptance in Lieu scheme, this iconic and macabre object, once owned by Horace Walpole, has been reacquired.

As part of the mid-1700s craze for all things Chinese, especially porcelain, Walpole amassed a collection of around 300 pieces. The beautiful, large blue-and-white bowl achieved a certain notoriety after Walpole's favourite cat, Selima, drowned in it while trying to catch a goldfish. The incident was later immortalised in a mock-heroic ode by Walpole's friend, the poet Thomas Gray – "Ode to the Death of a Favourite Cat, Drowned in a Tub of Gold Fishes" (1747).

The cat's death occurred at Walpole's London house, in Arlington Street. The bowl, along with many other works of art, was moved to Strawberry Hill sometime in the 1760s. In 1773, Walpole commissioned a Gothic-style pedestal for the tub and a label to be affixed to it with the first stanza of the poem.

After 1778 the tub was moved to the Little Cloister, outside of the



The Goldfish Bowl (photo : Matt Chung)

House, with the 1784 Description describing the new location: "On a pedestal, stands the large blue and white china tub in which Mr. Walpole's cat was drowned; on a label of the pedestal is written the first stanza of Mr. Gray's beautiful ode on that occasion, "Twas on this lofty vase's side, Where China's gayest art has dy'd. The azure flow'rs that blow, Demurest of the tabby kind, The pensive Selima reclin'd, Gaz'd on the lake below". The quality of every aspect of the jardiniere is superior; from the shaping of the pot to the glazing and firing, all demonstrate a remarkable level of artistry. The porcelain bowl is now on permanent display in the Hall at Strawberry Hill House.

We are pleased to offer a 10% discount to all Strawberry Hill Residents in our shop between 5-12 December.

Business Pages

By Zoe Prindiville

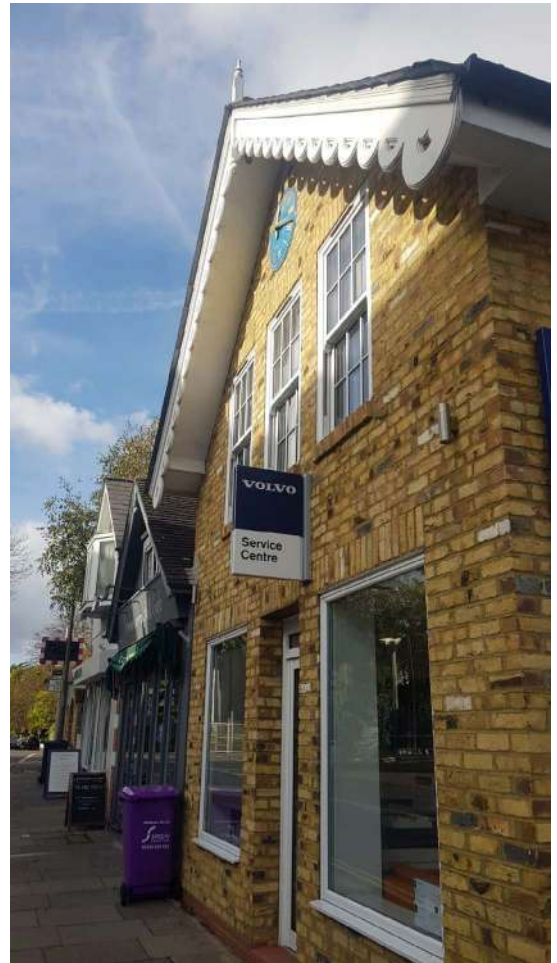
MKG3000

The businesses of Strawberry Hill Village really can cater for every need – whether you want to eat, buy a pint of milk, have a haircut or service your car. In 1998, MKG3000 was formed by three men who originally met and worked at the Subaru office on Staines Rd – James Maxfield, Stefan Kadlubowski and Alistair Grist. They bought the property that was originally Harji's, a shoe mender's on the corner of Tower Road, and transformed it into a service-and-MOT centre. The technicians can service any make of car, and provide after-sales care for Volvo and Mazda cars sold from the sister site on Heath Road.

In 2014, Stefan Kadlubowski, the main architect, designed the current service centre with its distinctive railway-style clock, awning and tongue-and-groove panels, all in homage to the neighbouring railway station. There is a one-bedroom flat above as well. There was some controversy at the time as the build required the removal of three silver birch trees which had been funded by SHRA.

Barry Gillon, the after-sales manager is the longest-serving employee in the office, and has worked there since 2008. He has seen a lot of changes over the years, but he feels that the change that has affected the Village the most is the contentious issue of CPZ parking – and especially the most recent extension of the CPZ to Strawberry Hill Road.

The business has evolved with the increased use of electric cars, and the mechanics are ready to help with any issue you might have – electric or petrol-related. In fact, Barry told me they've even had a wheelbarrow to fix in the past!



Kyzan

Located in the centre of the Village, where they have been cutting and styling for 22 years, is Kyzan Hairdressing. I spoke to Charlotte Brazil about her time in the Village. Charlotte is a local woman having attended Waldegrave Schools for Girls. The salon, which opened in 2000, is one of the longest-running businesses in the Village. The name Kyzan or Kaizan is Japanese for 'continuous improvement'. Charlotte has four members of staff working with her. The salon offers a wide range of services including cut, colour and styling and is open on two late nights – Monday and Thursday. The salon is bright and airy, and is perfectly located opposite Strawberry Hill Café to get a coffee to take over while you are served by Charlotte or her team!

Charlotte has seen a lot of changes in the Village since she opened the salon, with shops and businesses coming and going. However, she feels that the most positive thing now is that all the premises are occupied, (with the exception of the former booking office at the station). This, of course,

attracts people into the Village to look around. Despite increased competition from two other salons, Charlotte has a loyal customer base and has weathered that and the Covid storms well. Although the salon was closed for eight-and-a-half months, luckily most customers have returned. The main issue – frequently mentioned by most businesses in the area – is that of parking. It can be difficult for older customers to walk or cycle, and Charlotte said that this had adversely affected her business.