

Editor's Introduction

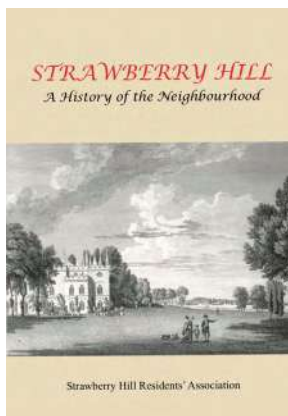
This newsletter is for all our members, which is everyone living in Strawberry Hill.

It is a busy time of year in Strawberry Hill and for SHRA. On November 9th the annual **Remembrance Day** parade and service was held starting in Twickenham and ending at the War Memorial in Radnor Gardens. For a second year SHRA was represented on the dais and our Chair laid a wreath in honour of the fallen in the World Wars of the 21st century. In order to ensure that the Gardens were pristine for this major event of the year, the SHRA litter pickers gave it a once-over, as part of the first-Saturday-of-the-month pick. Radnor Gardens has been enhanced this year with the establishment of the new café **Parsnips in the Park** and an interview with the owner, Benedict Phillips, is featured on our Business page.

The importance of our green spaces is emphasised in the new **Local Plan 2024-2039**, approved by the Council in October. The Plan will guide the development of Strawberry Hill for the immediate future but on the face of it there is little change proposed for us apart from a vague reference to improving the centre of the Village. The Strawberry Hill Golf Club is another of our green spaces and we are reminded that it celebrates its 125th year in 2025. We interview a former captain of the club who has been a member since 1985.



SHRA has long had an interest in researching local history, including former residents, and the history of streets and houses. In this Bulletin, Peter Lamb completes his history of The Old Stables in Strawberry Vale with a focus on the exploits of a Baron, Herbert Pakington. We are also pleased to announce that we have just printed 250 copies of our definitive history of our area, **Strawberry Hill: a history of the neighbourhood**, now in its fifth edition. We think that every household should have a copy of this book and at £8 it makes an excellent Christmas present for family, friends and neighbours (contact@shra.org.uk – to order a copy). The book also has a complete roll of honour for the First World War profiling all residents who died together with their Strawberry Hill addresses.



As regular readers will know this is SHRA's 60th anniversary year since its foundation in 1965. It seemed like an appropriate time to upgrade and modernise our [website](http://www.shra.org.uk). Please take the opportunity to find your way around the new site which has all the old information but also includes new information and features. We think it is easy to navigate and sets out clearly what SHRA does now and our continued relevance going forward. One of the innovations on the site is the addition of a photographic gallery which is organised by year and by activity. You can see images of our principal events: Social Evening/AGM; Summer Picnic; and Carols in the Village.

Our annual **Carols in the Village** event is being held on Friday 5 December at 6-7.30pm in Wellesley Parade. The event aims to bring residents together and to promote community Christmas spirit. We also hope that the presence of the illuminated and decorated Christmas tree in the heart of the Village will attract residents and passers-by to visit our retailers, many of whom are sponsoring the event. As usual Richmond Brass Band will provide the accompaniment to 12 carols. If you are free, then please come along and join us for mulled wine and mince pies – with treats for children.

Andrew Miller, Chair, SHRA

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In this issue:

Local Issues : Councillor Richard Bennett, Leader of the Green Group, discusses the crisis affecting Twickenham Green, a major open space for residents on the border of Strawberry Hill. **Dany Mooney** reports on crime in Strawberry Hill. [CLICK HERE](#)

The Association : We report on the launch of our new website and look forward to Carols in the Village, our annual Christmas event and lighting up the Christmas tree in Wellesley Parade. [CLICK HERE](#)

Resident Profile : In a new feature page, Fiona Maxwell interviews **Graham Paterson**, member of the Strawberry Hill Golf Club since 1985 and a former club captain. [CLICK HERE](#)

Planning: We review the significance for Strawberry Hill of the Council passing the new Local Plan on October 7th. [CLICK HERE](#)

History & Heritage : Peter Lamb, in the second part of his house history of The Old Stables in Strawberry Vale, focuses on its most celebrated resident, **Herbert Pakington**. **Rosie White** describes the winter programme for Strawberry Hill House, our principal heritage asset. [CLICK HERE](#)

St Mary's University : The University's current range of short courses are outlined with discounts for residents. [CLICK HERE](#)

Business Pages: Fiona Maxwell interviews **Benedict Phillips**, the owner of **Parsnips in the Park**, the new Radnor Gardens café. [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.

Although Twickenham Green is not in Strawberry Hill, it is on the border and residents use the space extensively and are affected by what happens there (as we saw during lockdown). SHRA has maintained links with Friends of Twickenham Green for many years. Councillor Richard Bennett attends both SHRA and FoTG meetings

Councillor's Update

Councillor Richard Bennett, Leader of the Green Group & Leader of the Opposition, London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames (Cllr.r.bennett@richmond.gov.uk).

Twickenham Green

I would like to focus our attention on the state of Twickenham Green and how it could be improved. I will emphasise that I am certainly not criticising the Borough's Parks Department. They have been excellent and consistently demonstrated their commitment to the health of the Green. It is simply that the difficulty of the task is growing year by year.

The Green has been subjected to heavy usage, and some events, notably the Fun Fair were inflicting damage that was difficult to recover from. A better balance has now been achieved. There are regular events and celebrations, and, importantly, lots of 'ad hoc' ones. Two major events the 'High Tide' one in July and the Circus in September are now established and generally welcomed. Nevertheless, the grass cover has reached a dreadful state and restoring it has become a serious challenge.

We are experiencing periods of drought each year. Even when there is rainfall the ground is so compacted that the water struggles to penetrate and therefore forms sizeable puddles and produces mud. There are large bare patches and the lack of grass would be even more evident without weeds and the spread of yarrow partly filling the gaps.

Re-seeding at the cricket pitch side is an annual Council commitment to Twickenham Cricket Club under the terms of their lease. There is concern that the amount of seed spread is insufficient, but this year the re-seeding was shortly followed by a scheduled mowing that defeated the potential benefit. The Parks Department does not have a set commitment to re-seed the restaurant end of the Green but have been active in doing so over the years. Unfortunately, the effectiveness of their efforts has become disappointing.

So, where do we go from here? I think we need to identify and evaluate other less conventional options. The shortage of water might, for example, be addressed by adapting the two building structures (pavilion and restaurant) for water capture. Periodically, fire engines must empty their hoses. The grass seed planted might also be of a coarser Mediterranean variety used to drought (although, the cricket outfield end would probably not welcome that solution). A gravel garden might be a possibility near the restaurant.

However, there will be other possibilities and you may be able to identify them. We are just at the beginning of the process, but we must succeed if we are to protect and improve our precious green spaces such as Twickenham Green. I welcome your views.

Richard Bennett



Local Issues

Crime in Strawberry Hill

by June Collins, SHRA Treasurer

Richmond consistently ranks as the safest borough across London, only very occasionally falling to second position. Residents may be aware that, for policing purposes, Strawberry Hill falls within the wider South Twickenham Ward. In common with other wards across Richmond Borough, South Twickenham has its own dedicated team of police officers, our Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). The Police Liaison Group (PLG) meets quarterly, providing a forum for Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators (NHWCs) and local residents to meet both the SNT and local councillors in order to get feedback on crime trends and police activity and also to raise any concerns. Strawberry Hill is well represented on the PLG, with June Collins, NHWC for Tower Road, and Dany Mooney NHWC for Radnor Gardens, both attending. At the beginning of the year, South Twickenham PLG formed a 'federation' with West Twickenham PLG, with PLG meetings now providing a joint forum for both. This federation is proving to work well, with the two areas bordering each other and crime, such as shoplifting, with the same perpetrators, stretching across both. One police sergeant, Jason Hudson, heads both SNTs and the police teams work closely with each other.

Below are the latest crime figures (Strawberry Hill is part of the South Twickenham Ward).

Offence	July/August 24	July/August 25	Change
Burglary	8	9	+1
Criminal Damage	14	11	-3
Robbery	2	2	0
Theft from M/V	5	6	+1
Theft of M/V	5	4	-1
Theft of pedal cycle	5	4	-1
Non Domestic	43	20	-23
Domestic	10	4	-6
Youth Violence	n/r	n/r	0

The most recent Police Liaison Group was held on the 17th September. After a difficult period, spanning some two years, the SNT finally returned to full strength earlier this year and, following the disbanding of the Royal Parks Unit across London, will be further bolstered by the return of PC Ray Sullivan. PC Ivor Roberts will now be focusing on the Schools Officer role (education on crime prevention). However, the team continues to suffer from a high 'abstraction' rate, whereby officers are called away to help across the Met more widely. Abstraction rates can sometimes account for 25% of their time.

Police activity continues to focus on shoplifting, particularly prolific in the smaller supermarkets in central Twickenham, usually with goods sold on to fund drug habits. The police have had some success here, with the main offenders now known to them. Regular One Stop Shop meetings are held at St Mary's University, with students being supported on issues arising from social media, e.g. blackmail, sexual offences and attacks.



Crime figures: A mixed picture compared with the same period last year. Residential burglaries are up by three (NB: this includes from sheds and garages), but commercial burglaries are down by two. Theft of motor vehicles is down by one, theft from motor vehicles is up by one. Vehicle interference is up by two (NB: not in Strawberry Hill itself). Robbery from persons has remained the same, cases mostly being theft of mobiles from school children. Assaults with and without injury have decreased significantly, by 12 and 6 respectively. Domestic violence is also down. Overall there has been a decrease in crime across the ward.

Concerns over cycling on pavements, including the use of electric bikes and scooters, have been extensively discussed in the last two meetings. Clearly this presents a real danger to pedestrians. It is illegal and the police do intervene when they see it happening (if they can do so safely). Offenders often claim not to have known it is illegal and as a result the PLG has called upon the Council to provide more signage to that effect. Signs are now being installed in South Twickenham, but more are needed.

Contact information

The point of contact telephone number for South Twickenham (not a reporting number) is 027 175 9465

X/Twitter address for South Twickenham SNT is @MPSSTwickenham

South Twickenham SNT email address is southtwickenham.snt@met.police.uk

Reporting homelessness

You can report people who are homeless to SPEAR (the homeless charity) and they will go out and help them – tel. 0208 288 6506 – <https://www.spearlondon.org/>

The following link is to the Street Safe online reporting APP.

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

Viewing crime figures The following link allows you to view crimes in your area. Simply put in your postcode. UK Crime Statistics (crime-statistics.co.uk)

The Association

The 'new' SHRA website – shra.org.uk

In January 2025 the SHRA Committee decided that it was time to overhaul the SHRA website. The main aim of the review was to better reflect the range of activities, so it is clear what we do and what we contribute to promoting a local sense of community. We sought out a local web developer, Paul Timmins (paul.timmins@freelance-creator.com), who worked with us on the redesign culminating in the launch in October. The first task was to produce a site map which contained all the content set out in main pages, sub-pages and sub-sub pages. The Home page sets out all that is on offer and the main sections are About SHRA, Our Activities, History & Heritage and Gallery. There are lots of links to past issues of the Bulletin where readers can find out more in longer articles. At the foot of the Home page there is an easy sign-up process to join the Bulletin mailing list. The photo Gallery organises images by year and key activity. We hope that you will take the opportunity to take a look at the new website and contact us to let us know what you think.

Carols in the Village – Friday 5 December

The annual SHRA Christmas event will take place at the usual venue of **Wellesley Parade** from 6-7.30pm. Music will be provided by our good friends, the Richmond Brass Band, playing twelve much-loved carols. In addition to our usual eight carols, a small survey was carried out on the Committee to identify an additional four carols – the most popular were In the Bleak Midwinter, We Three Kings, Jingle Bells and Deck the Halls. Children will be encouraged to decorate the large Christmas tree that will light up the area until early January. Mulled wine and mince pies will be available for added warmth and there will be treats for children. As in previous years donations will go towards the Mayor of Richmond's charities and to cover costs.

New SHRA Vice Chair - Jonathan Bayliss

Since **Andrew Miller** stepped up to become the Chair of SHRA, following the retirement of David Cornwell, we have not had a Vice Chair. The main function of the Vice Chair is to support the Chair and to stand in when the Chair is unavailable. We are delighted that **Jonathan Bayliss**, our Business Liaison coordinator, has agreed to take on the additional role of Vice Chair. Jonathan is a retired City lawyer who has lived in the area for forty years.

Vacancies on the SHRA Committee

There is a requirement for 15 members on the SHRA Committee according to the Constitution and 11 current members. The two key vacancies are for a brace of Events Coordinators who can work together to put on (with the support of other Committee members) the key SHRA annual events, i.e. Carols in the Village (at Wellesley Parade), SHRA AGM/Social Evening (at the Golf Club) and Strawberry Hill Community Picnic (probably at Strawberry Hill House). We would also like to recruit a Marketing & Communications Coordinator to help with documenting Strawberry Hill through photography and producing posters for events (e.g. using Canva).

Obituary Teresa Read (1948-2025)

Teresa Read was a well-known character in the Twickenham community who died at the Princess Alice Hospice on 7 October 2025. For a number of years, she was a member of the SHRA Committee. She lived in Popes Avenue and was, through Twickenham Alive, at the centre of many community events in our area over the past twenty years. She was also the person behind the Twickenham & Richmond Tribune.



New SHRA Vice Chair - Jonathan Bayliss

Teresa Read - Image courtesy of this is local London



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.co.uk) 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.co.uk) 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:** _____

Please drop in to either A: June Collins, 23b Tower Road, TW1 4PD or
B : Post Office, 50 Tower Road, TW1 4PE

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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)

Resident Profile

60 Years in Strawberry Hill - Graham Paterson by Fiona Maxwell

In The 125th anniversary year of The Strawberry Hill Golf Club, Fiona Maxwell chats with long-term member and previous club captain, Graham Paterson

Q: Graham you have lived for many years in Strawberry Hill and brought up a family here. When did you first move to the neighbourhood?

That's easy to remember as it was the year England won the FIFA football World Cup at Wembley in 1966!

Q: Wow, so next year 2026 will be your sixtieth anniversary as a Strawberry Hill Resident. With a demanding career and bringing up your two daughters, Claire and Louise, with your wife Margaret, how did the Golf Club first come into your life?

Actually, hockey and cricket were my sports when I was younger and it was through a contact in that sport that I was introduced to our local golf club.

Q: Did you already play golf before joining the Strawberry Hill club?

No, I couldn't play when I joined the club in 1985 and learnt to play afterwards. I thought already playing hockey would be useful but soon realised I would need lessons. So as a novice I took some group lessons at what is now the David Lloyd club in Hampton. This gave me the confidence to play at Strawberry Hill and move up the rankings.

Q. You were a club Captain from 1988 to 1999, what did this involve?

Club Captains were responsible for helping to run the club, organise tournaments and social events such as hosting the Captains' dinners. Plus buying rounds of drinks at the bar for tournament winners, it could be expensive being a Captain!

Q: Did the club help you to meet people in the early days?

Yes, it certainly did, especially the additional social events such as playing Bridge and club dinners.

Q: Did you play predominately with local Strawberry Hill friends and with neighbours over the years?

Yes, definitely local friendships were made but people come from all over to the club and it really expanded and broadened my social circle.

Q: How many years did you play golf at the club?

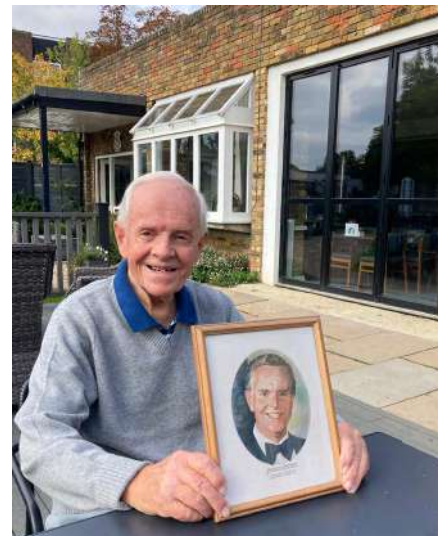
Well I am now in my nineties and I only stopped playing five years ago so it has been a big part of my life.

Q: To have a course so close to your home that you can walk to it must make it an accessible venue. Now that you are a social member how do you tend to use the club's facilities?

Yes, the proximity of the club to where I live is a big plus, being able to walk there or get a short lift with friends is a real bonus. I regularly use the club for lunches and as a meeting place for friends. Sitting on the outdoor terrace in the summer and having a drink with players as they finish their round is a very pleasant way to spend my time.

Q: What does the club mean to you?

Well it is ingrained in my history with the neighbourhood. Since losing my wife, beloved Margaret, to cancer some years back, the club is really the hub of my social life now. It means a great deal to me to be able to enjoy its facilities.



Planning

Strawberry Hill in the Local Plan

The Richmond Local Plan was adopted on 7 October 2025 setting out the 15-year strategic vision (2024-2039) for guiding decisions on where, how much and what kind of development is needed in the borough. It replaces the previous Local Plan and the Twickenham Area Action Plan and conforms to the parameters laid out in the Mayor for London's London Plan. It was drafted by the Planning Policy team at the Council and has been the subject of extensive consultation. It includes 'place-based strategies' for the whole borough, 'site allocations' and 'thematic policies' to guide development. Details are provided about 38 site allocations which are earmarked for development but none of these are in Strawberry Hill. The Plan aims to address future challenges including: climate change, health, affordability and liveability. The Plan helps decide the outcome of planning applications for new buildings and changes of use. You can read the full interim Richmond upon Thames Local Plan 'The best for our borough' (2024-2039) on the Council's website.

20-minute neighbourhood and housing targets

The 20-minute neighbourhood continues to be a key strategic policy. This promotes 'living locally' in that all residents' daily needs should be within a 20 minute walk or bike ride from home.

In the Local Plan the housing target for Richmond is 5,928 dwellings between 2024 and 2039 based on London Plan targets. The Plan envisages a step change from 420 per annum between 2025/26-2027/28 and 670 per annum between 2028/29-30/31. The South-, West-, and North-Twickenham, Twickenham Riverside and St Margaret's 'Place' has a target of between 1,100 and 1,200 dwellings. This includes Strawberry Hill (part of South Twickenham and part of Twickenham Riverside) but it is not clear to what extent new dwellings can be built in our 'change sensitive' area. SHRA will continue to monitor planning applications as a key part of our work for the community.

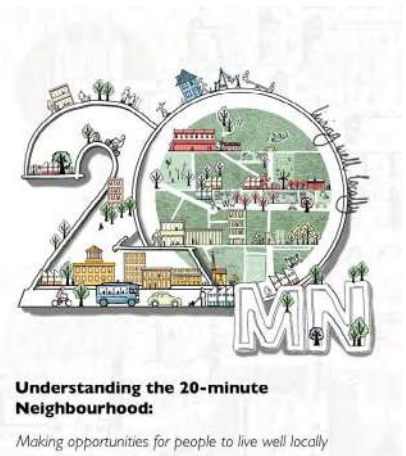


Image Courtesy of Urban Design Group



Image Courtesy of LBRuT

Strawberry Hill in the Local Plan

Strawberry Hill is name checked in the Place-Based Strategy 3 for Twickenham, Strawberry Hill & St Margaret's (one of nine 'places' in the borough). The Urban Design Study consulted and reported on what people valued in our area and Strawberry Hill received high scores for 'attractiveness, tranquillity, and green spaces.' Strawberry Hill is regarded as particularly 'change sensitive'.

The vision for Strawberry Hill is that it will 'continue to be a safe, and attractive family-focused residential area. The local centre and railway station will be enhanced to create a real "heart" to the area, the

contribution of valued open spaces make to its character will be protected.' The strategy for Strawberry Hill is 'to conserve and enhance the sense of identity, by improving the public realm, townscape legibility, and local hubs and parades.' The public realm will be enhanced by 'reanimating local commercial areas such as Wellesley Parade'. SHRA welcomes the desire to improve the centre of Strawberry Hill 'Village', i.e. the area around Strawberry Hill Station, Tower Road and Wellesley Parade, as this has been an objective for several years.

The only site allocation within Strawberry Hill covers St Mary's University campus. SHRA is relieved to hear that a masterplan for future developments will be produced by SMU working with the Council. The Plan envisages the retention of existing playing fields and the protection of open land, current views and vistas. SHRA has regular meetings with the Vice Chancellor which focuses on proposed developments at the University and their implications for residents.

There is also a reference to the proposed new footbridge over the River. Initial feasibility for a new pedestrian and cycle bridge across the Thames argued that Ham-Twickenham was the best option with Ham-Radnor Gardens as a second choice option. This development requires further studies of economic feasibility and funding. It seems unlikely that the footbridge into Radnor Gardens will be funded and built within the timescale of the Plan.

History & Heritage

The Old Stables – An Eminent Resident

by Peter Lamb

The house histories of Strawberry Hill that SHRA researchers provide us with an insight, not only into the way the architecture of our area has evolved, but also give us a glimpse into the lives of past residents. Sometimes our trail comes across a member of our community with a measure of fame and reputation, which is the case in my most research into the history of the Old Stables. At the request of the current occupants, I have been pursuing the story of the Old Stables, a fine white house which lies in Strawberry Vale on the bend opposite the junction with Waldegrave Park. It has a spacious frontage sitting behind a wall with an elegant gate and has a long narrow garden that leads down to the river.

My article that appeared in the Spring 2025 edition of the bulletin (no.185) took us up to 1930s, by which time the Old Stables had become a substantial dwelling in its own right, separate from Devonshire House to which it had belonged. As the name suggests, it was a block of stables with accommodation for the grooms of the horses belonging to the owners of the main house, and later it served as a garage for their vehicle or vehicles. I pick up the story in 1940 when the Old Stables were purchased by someone who was for 22 years to remain an eminent and renowned resident of Strawberry Hill. Herbert Pakington, or to give him his full title, the Right Honourable Herbert Stuart Pakington, 4th Baron Hampton CBE DSO.

Herbert Pakington

Herbert Pakington was born in 1883 to a distinguished family based in the county of Worcestershire. His antecedents served in politics throughout the 19th century as MPs, Secretary of State for War and First Lord of the Admiralty. The baronetcy was created in 1874, and, in 1906, Herbert Pakington inherited the title of 4th Baron Hampton of Hampton Lovett and Westwood in the County of Worcester aged just 22. He was educated at Wellington College and Sandhurst and pursued a military career before and during the First World War where he served in Gallipoli and the Middle East. The campaigns in which he was involved are detailed in two works by Victor Godrich, "The Mountains of Moab: Diary of a Cavalryman with the Queen's Own Worcestershire Hussars" and "To Jerusalem". Major Pakington is closely associated with these two accounts, and there is reference to his artworks in which he depicted aspects of his life in the army. He was an accomplished watercolourist, with examples of his work housed in the Worcester Yeomanry Museum which is part of the Worcester City Museum.

The Scouts

He is particularly noted for his longstanding work with the Boy Scout Association. In 1925 he published "Scouting Sketches" which contains a forward by Lord Baden Powell. In the 1930s he was Chief Commissioner of the Boy Scout Association. In 1931 he went to America to attend the annual meeting of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America where he presented to the retiring president of American Scouts the 'Silver Wolf', the highest scout award. He in turn received the Silver Buffalo Award from his American counterparts.

Among his manifold engagements as chief commissioner was a St George's Day scout rally held in Richmond. The Richmond Herald of 4th May 1935 has a full account of his attendance as the guest of honour before a large body of boy scouts and their families from the Richmond, Kew, Petersham, Ham and Mortlake. It is interesting to note that he chose to be at Richmond on this occasion rather than at the big Windsor Castle Scout rally which he would normally be required to attend on this same Sunday. To quote the newspaper: "...many years ago Lord Hampton promised to attend the Richmond service at the first available opportunity, and this year he fulfilled his pledge." One can assume that he had a particular affinity for this part of London, as five years later he was to make it his home. There was a service in Richmond Theatre and, on Richmond Green, the scouts marched past with Lord Hampton taking the salute. His address to the assembled company was very patriotic with a reinforcement of Christian values using the story of St George as a central motif. One wonders whether he would have approved the motivation for the recent plethora of St George Cross flags appearing in many places throughout the country.

Move to London

Lord Hampton sold the family seat, Waresley Court near Kidderminster, in 1924 and moved to London where he lived at 18 Evelyn Gardens in Chelsea. It was in 1940 that he bought the Old Stables from a Michael Hillman and moved in with his sister, Mary Augusta Pakington (1878-1949). The electoral registers show his sister lived with him until her death in 1949, one other occupant being a certain Jane Howitt who remained with him until his death in 1962. I assume she may well have been his housekeeper.

I have the impression that Herbert Pakington was actively involved in the local community, especially in the artistic sphere. In 1946 he consented to become vice-president of the Richmond and Twickenham Arts Club to which he gifted his library of music consisting of songs by Schumann, Schubert, Brahms and many other composers. In 1949 he was one of the Twickenham artists to show work at the New English Art Club's 102nd show at the Royal Institute Galleries in Piccadilly. Two of his paintings were exhibited; "Trees in the Old Deer Park" and "Winter Evening, Thames Towpath". The former, together with a study of trees in Epping Forest, came up for sale in 2020 at an auction in Dorset. Baron Hampton, the Right honourable Herbert Stuart Pakington of the Old Stables, Strawberry Vale, Twickenham died 30th October 1962 at West Middlesex Hospital. His effects totalled £36661 19s 1d.

From the information I have gleaned I have formed the impression of an old school English gentleman; kindly, dutiful, patriotic in its most reasonable connotation, and dedicated to the arts and the community. He never married and was succeeded by his younger brother, Humphrey Arthur Pakington as 5th Baron Hampton. The current 7th Baron Hampton, John Humphrey Arnott Pakington is a cross bench peer at the House of Lords.

Sources: Ancestry.com
The British Newspaper Library.



History & Heritage

Strawberry Hill House

by Rosie White, Marketing and Communications Officer

Henry VIII's Lost Dagger: From the Tudor Court to the Victorian Stage 1 November 2025 – 15 February 2026

Forged in sixteenth-century Istanbul, a jewelled Ottoman dagger once dazzled Europe with its jade and gold. Centuries later, Horace Walpole displayed it at Strawberry Hill, believing it had belonged to Henry VIII. Antiquarians sketched it, engravers fixed its Tudor legend in print, and in 1842 it left Strawberry Hill for the collection of the actor Charles Kean.

This new exhibition reunites two surviving daggers from the same rare group, brought together for the first time in over 400 years. It explores how myth, memory and scholarship shaped the afterlife of this remarkable object and reveals the ways in which historic collections and performance brought the past to life for new audiences.

The exhibition runs alongside Strawberry Hill After Dark: The Lost Dagger, a series of evening events combining candlelit exhibition viewing with expert talks. Speakers include Professor Glenn Richardson (St Mary's University) on Walpole and Cardinal Wolsey, Timothy Schroder FSA on Henry VIII's Kunstkammer, and Professor Robin Simon (UCL) on historical authenticity in Shakespearean theatre. Entry to the exhibition is included with general admission. For details and booking, visit www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/lost-dagger

Pictured: Ottoman Dagger, Portland Collection, Welbeck Abbey credit: Matt Chung



Ottoman Dagger, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna

A Georgian Christmas at Horace Walpole's Gothic Castle 3 December 2025 – 4 January 2026

This December, Strawberry Hill House will be decorated for A Georgian Christmas, taking inspiration from the simple elegance of eighteenth-century festive traditions. Long before the Victorians popularised Christmas trees and elaborate decorations, the Georgians marked the season with evergreens, candlelight and classical ornament. Visitors will be able to see these customs brought to life throughout the house, which will be open daily during the festive period.

A series of events accompanies the display. On Saturday 6 December, Lilian's Flowers will lead a Georgian wreath-making workshop using seasonal foliage, pinecones and dried fruit.

Two family craft days will take place on 13 and 20 December, offering activities such as making decorations and icing gingerbread. On Friday 19 December, the House will open for a Candlelit Late, when visitors can explore the rooms after hours, enjoy live harp music and a glass of fizz.

Further details and booking information are available at www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/christmas.



St Mary's University

Short Courses – Strawberry Hill Residents Welcome by Cindy Croucher-Wright, Short Course Administrator

We have a number of courses running over the coming months, most of which have a special **10% discount** for our local Strawberry Hill neighbours. You can access via our dedicated neighbours page [stmarys.ac.uk/neighbours-discounts](https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/neighbours-discounts) which is regularly updated.

Learn to Lift - Strength Building & Weightlifting

If you'd like to add strength training to your fitness routine, our Learn-to-Lift course returns on **7th January 2026**. Held on Wednesday evenings, this course will teach you how to safely lift weights and improve your fitness in a friendly, fun, and supportive environment. The sessions take place in our state-of-the-art Performance Education Centre (PEC) on campus, with courses tailored for every experience level: **Beginner: 6–7pm; Intermediate: 7–8pm; Advanced Olympic Weightlifting: 8–9pm**. Take advantage of the discounted rate of £140.40 (normally £156) and secure your place today.

Reflexology

Take the next step in your career or personal development with our Level 3 Diploma in Reflexology, designed to provide professional training in this non-invasive complementary therapy. Reflexology promotes deep relaxation and overall wellbeing by targeting specific points on the feet, lower legs, hands, face, or ears, which correspond to different areas of the body. Our course is led by experts in the field. It will equip you with the skills to deliver safe, effective, and commercially-acceptable reflexology treatments, in accordance with legislation and best-practice standards. Upon successful completion, you will be a fully qualified reflexologist, able to obtain insurance, set up your own practice, or pursue employment within the industry. We are proud to be an Association of Reflexologists (AoR) Gateway member. Our next course begins in **February** and the full cost is **£1,750**.

Certificate in Counselling Skills

Begin your journey toward a rewarding career in counselling with the Level 2 Certificate in Counselling Skills, accredited by the Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body (CPCAB). This nationally recognised qualification is ideal for anyone wishing to develop practical counselling skills for professional or personal use.

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- CPCAB-accredited and nationally recognised;
- Delivered 100% online via Microsoft Teams for flexible learning;
- Suitable for beginners and those exploring a career in counselling;
- Builds practical skills and foundational knowledge;
- Pathway to Level 3 Certificate and Diploma in Counselling;
- Ideal for roles in health, education, social care, and support work.

This 18-session course is delivered online via Microsoft teams and begins in February. The course costs £1,265

We also offer wider courses in [Nutrition](#), [Gym & Personal Training](#), [Reflexology](#), [Massage](#) and [Sports Massage](#) and [First Aid](#). Our website is regularly updated and a full list of all our courses is available via <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/short-courses/overview.aspx> or call 020 8240 4321 for more information.



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Local Business

Parsnips in The Park – the new Radnor Gardens Café

by Fiona Maxwell

Fiona Maxwell in conversation with Benedict Phillips on his recent business venture in Strawberry Hill.

The Strawberry Hill Residents are certainly thrilled to have a cafe back at Radnor Gardens. How has patronage been since you opened?

It's been absolutely wonderful - we've had such a warm welcome from the local community. From early-morning dog walkers and families after school to weekend brunchers and riverside strollers, the response has exceeded all expectations. It's been lovely seeing Radnor Gardens come alive again as a meeting place for everyone.

Was your Namesake Cafe 'Benedict's' in Teddington your original business in this area?

Yes - Café Benedict in Teddington was our first local venture. It began as a neighbourhood brunch and dinner spot, and it's really where the whole idea of creating welcoming, community-focused venues took root.

What is the ethos of your businesses?

Our philosophy is simple: great food, made with care, served with warmth. We believe in proper cooking, using quality ingredients, and creating spaces that feel part of the community - places where people feel at home. Everything we do, from the menu to the design, is about comfort, generosity, and a genuine sense of place.

Then came Parsnips next door in Teddington, was the thinking behind the naming of this cafe in the park 'Parsnips' so that locals made the link?

The original Parsnips Deli and Café were actually named after my dog, Parsnip. Parsnips in the Park is a natural extension of that — we wanted people to recognise the name and expect the same level of quality and friendliness, just in a different setting. The idea is that the cafés feel like siblings: each with its own character, but part of the same family.

What first brought you into the career of catering and hospitality?

I've always loved food and the sense of community it creates. My background wasn't originally in hospitality, but over time I became increasingly drawn to the energy of cafés and restaurants — places that bring people together.

There's something incredibly rewarding about watching people enjoy what you've created, whether it's a loaf of bread, a perfect flat white, or a full brunch service.

Where are the cakes and pastries that the cafe stocks baked?

All our cakes are baked daily by our pastry chefs in our Teddington pastry kitchens. The pastries are actually cooked on site each morning in our oven in the café. Everything is made fresh each morning - from buttery croissants and cinnamon buns to brownies, cakes, and traybakes - before being delivered to the café. It means everything we serve is fresh from our own ovens, baked by people who care about the craft.

Tell me about the ingredients for your cafe, are any locally sourced?

Absolutely. We're proud to work with a number of fantastic local and British suppliers. Our coffee is roasted in London, our milk comes from The Estate Dairy, and our eggs are free-range and sourced Cacklebean. We use HG Walter for meat and support small producers wherever possible. Fresh herbs, flowers, and some of our greens even come from our own gardens and planters.

You opened with a trial menu, how has that developed? Will you change the

menu with the seasons?

Yes, we began with a focused trial menu to see what people loved, and the feedback has been great. We're now expanding gradually - adding seasonal brunch dishes, lighter lunches, and artisanal soups. We absolutely plan to evolve with the seasons.

What about opening times, will you stay open all year round?

Yes — we will be open all year round. Our opening hours are 8:30am till 5pm. We might extend these next spring but we will take a view when that comes round.

Were you aware of the Strawberry Hill Residents Association and the Bulletins we publish?


Yes, I was aware of the Strawberry Hill Residents Association, but not of the Bulletins themselves — and we're absolutely delighted to be part of them. It's a brilliant way to stay connected to the local community, and we hope Parsnips in the Park will become a regular part of life for SHRA members — whether for coffee, breakfast, or just a friendly chat on a walk through the gardens.



Pictured: Ben Phillips

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