STRAWBERRY HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Bulletin

A newsletter for all residents of Strawberry Hill

www.shra.org.uk
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No. 190 : Winter 2026

Editor's Introduction

This newsletter is for all our members, which is everyone living in Strawberry Hill. Welcome to the Winter edition of the SHRA Bulletin.

Time goes so quickly and we will soon be entering the Christmas season though some of our local supermarkets seem to have been in that season for some time!

We are delighted to announce that the annual **SHRA Carols in the Village** event will be held this year on **Friday 4th December from 6:00pm until 7:30pm**. One of SHRA's constitutional objectives is to bring the Strawberry Hill community together and this event certainly does that. As in previous years Richmond Brass Band will provide the musical accompaniment to the carols. Children will be invited to decorate the Christmas tree and will be rewarded with special treats. Complimentary mulled wine and mince pies will be available.

The Mayor, **Councillor Nancy Baldwin** will open the event and we will be collecting for her charities Cocoon Care After Care and Skylarks.

Can I say how grateful we are to the local businesses who have kindly sponsored the Carols in the Village event. They are:

Alexander Pope | Architecture:WK | Brewers Decorator Centres | Everydays Jawbone Brewing | Kew Windows | Kyzan Hairdressing | Mercury Motors MKG3000 Volvo and Mazda | Parsnips in the Park | Riverside Supermarket Sopa Thai Restaurant | Squires Garden Centres | St Mary's University Strawberry Hill Golf Club | Strawberry Hill Pharmacy | Strawberry Hill Post Office Twickenham Body and Health

Our local businesses are the lifeblood of our village and please do support them. We look forward to seeing many local residents at Carols in the Village.

On Sunday 8th November I was extremely proud to represent SHRA at the annual **Remembrance Day** parade and service held in Radnor Gardens. Laying a wreath in honour of those local residents who lost their lives in the two World Wars really brought home the enormity of the sacrifice made by so many and the families they left behind.

Can I make two requests? The first is for **new Committee Members**. I was reflecting on what a community actually is and Strawberry Hill meets the key criteria:

- A shared locality in what still seems like a village
- Frequent interactions and social ties
- A sense of belonging
- Mutual support
- The benefits of local infrastructure and institutions.

We particularly need help with **marketing and with the organisation of events**. If you would like to volunteer just ask any member of the Committee (contact details on page 6)or contact us via our website.

Secondly, for those not already doing so **please do consider taking out a subscription to SHRA** (see page 6 for subscription details). The suggested amount per year is for most not life changing (£5 to £10) but makes a real difference to the efficient and effective operations of SHRA.

I hope you enjoy the Bulletin.

Jonathan Bayliss, Vice Chair, SHRA

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Local Issues : **Cllr Jack Clothier Jones,** discusses plans for a new pedestrian crossing by the University and reports on an anti-idling afternoon at Strawberry Hill Station. **June Collins** reports on crime in Strawberry Hill . CLICK HERE

The Association : We include details of Carols in the Village and vacancies on the SHRA Committee. We also describe the cathartic quality of the monthly litter pick organised by Committee Member **Louisa Carradine.** CLICK HERE

Sports in Strawberry Hill : Our **Chair Andrew Miller** reflects on sports opportunities in Strawberry Hill (participating and watching) from rugby and cricket to boules, pétanque and snooker. CLICK HERE

On the Buses -1981 : **Peter Lamb**, our resident historian, describes how local bus routes were different forty five years ago and on the markedly different experiences of travelling by bus now and then. CLICK HERE

Events at Strawberry Hill House: **Imogen Willets** reports on Christmas and New Year events at Strawberry Hill House.These include, in the New Year, an inaugural Festival of Gothic Imagination. CLICK HERE

An Update from St Mary's University & Short Courses : SMU provides an update reporting on the celebration of the appointment of its new Chancellor and Vice Chancellor in Westminster Cathedral. The University has also been named a finalist in three categories in the Times Higher Education Awards.**Sairah Ali** describes courses to be provided by SMU. CLICK HERE

Business: **Fiona Maxwell** interviews General Manager Emma Sebrof and Head Chef Jamie Buclaw at the Alexander Pope in what is an exciting time for the Hotel and Pub. CLICK HERE

Local Issues

Councillor's Report- Jack Clothier Jones, Liberal Democrat Councillor for South Twickenham Ward.

SHRA is a non-political organisation and any views expressed are the Councillor's own.



image courtesy of Basket Bridge.org.uk

Greetings to Strawberry Hill Residents. I hope you are all well and do let me start off by thanking SHRA, Strawberry Hill House and local residents for the exceptional hospitality my family enjoyed at the Strawberry Hill Community Picnic and BBQ. A good time was had by all especially our three-year old who thought that the band was the best thing since sliced strawberries!

It has been busy over the last few months so just a quick update on a couple of items that might be relevant to you.

Firstly we have progressed through some initial plans for a new pedestrian crossing by the University and have circulated the drawings to SHRA who are very supportive of the proposal. We are a fair way off with the project still subject to detailed design, a Road Safety Audit, TFL London Buses approval, public consultation and funding but the project is moving in the right direction.

Meanwhile as well as the much loved mega skip coming to Strawberry Hill, running a very friendly anti-idling afternoon at the Railway Station, we are also working on a sustainable drainage system at Strawberry Hill Golf Club. Councillor Butlin was at the station selling poppies every day in the run up to Remembrance Day whilst Councillor Lee has been liaising with the council team very closely to act against fly tipping at the recycling unit in the centre of Strawberry Hill by SOPA. She asks that if you do see any offenders at work to send us an e-mail with rough times and dates and we can look into taking further action.

Finally, I just wanted to share some outreach from a fantastic looking organisation called Basket Brigade UK, a volunteer lead charity that brings together hundreds of people across London every Christmas to prepare and deliver baskets of food to individuals and families who may be struggling during the festive season. They are looking for volunteers this year and anyone interested in getting involved can visit them on https://www.basketbrigade.org.uk

Cllr Jack Clothier Jones
cllr.j.clothierjones@richmond.gov.uk

Local Issues

Crime in Strawberry Hill

by June Collins, SHRA Treasurer

The last Police Liaison Group (PLG) meeting was held on **16th September, 2026**. The current Safer Neighbourhood Team remains the same: **Jason Hudson, Sergeant**; two police officers - Gregory Roberts and Ivor Roberts; and PCSO Kyle Mackenzie. PC Ray Sullivan, currently the dedicated ward officer, will be retiring in December.
Several officers are off sick at the moment and these absences, together with abstractions, are affecting operations somewhat.
Below are the latest crime figures (Strawberry Hill is part of the South Twickenham Ward).

Offence	June - Aug 25	June - Aug 26	Change
Burglary	9	4	-5
Criminal Damage	11	9	-2
Robbery	2	4	+2
Theft from Motor Vehicle	6	9	+3
Theft of Motor Vehicle	4	5	+1
Theft of pedal cycle	4	6	+2
Stalking & Harassment	0	16	+16
Assault : Domestic Violence	4	0	-4
Assault : Without Injury	18	12	-6
Assault : With Injury	7	6	-1
Public Order Offences	7	6	-1
Sexual Offences	7	5	-2
Possession of Drugs	1	3	+2
Drugs Trafficking	3	0	-3
Possession of Weapons	1	1	0
Shoplifting	7	6	-1
Other Theft	11	16	+5

There was an increase of 16 in stalking and harassment, but this is probably due to greater emphasis on this issue and improved new police training and reporting procedures. Also, long term neighbour disputes can have a disproportionate effect and cause large fluctuation in the figures.

There is no overall pattern in the crime figures; these are very low figures compared to many other areas of London.
A resident raised the point that people are put off reporting crimes due to the official channels being too difficult and time consuming to navigate.

The team is holding community sessions where residents can attend and report crimes and issues and get crime prevention advice. To find out about forthcoming events such as this use Met Engage on this link: https://www.metengage.co.uk

The team reminded us that they need to know where crimes are happening to be able to target them with resources.
The most problematic areas of South Twickenham are St. Mary's University, Sainsburys and Tesco on Heath Road.

Residents were concerned about speeding cars on Wellesley Road; the SNT will carry out an operation there with a speed gun
Cycling on pavements is still a big issue and it has been requested that this topic be put on the agenda of the next Safer Neighbourhood Board Meeting. Roger Metcalf (the Chair of the SNB) has responded that they are already looking at this issue and were making addressing the problem part of their Antisocial Behaviour Strategy. Roger will be attending the next PLG meeting in December.

The priorities for the ward for the next three months are:

- Theft from cars and to raise the importance of reporting;
- burglaries carried out during the Autumn nights.

MET ENGAGE – **this is now the main communication channel, not the police WhatsApp channels.** This is a new platform to get to know local Police Officers, help shape how they police local areas and receive key information and advice.
To sign up (free) follow this link:
South Twickenham
https://www.metengage.co.uk/Content/LocalArea/79913/South%20Twickenham

June Collins

The Association

Carols in the village - Friday 4th December

The annual **SHRA Carols in the Village** will take place in **Wellesley Parade from 6:00pm to 7:30pm**. Music will be provided by the Richmond Brass Band playing twelve much loved carols. Children will be encouraged to decorate the large Christmas tree that will light up the area until early January. Complimentary mulled wine and mince pies will be available.

The **Mayor, Councillor Nancy Baldwin**, will open the event. As in previous years, donations will go towards the Mayor of Richmond's charities which are **Cocoon After Care and Skylarks.**

The local businesses who have kindly sponsored the event will be named on a banner at the site.

Vacancies on the SHRA Committee

There is a requirement for **15 members on the Committee** and we currently have a shortfall. It would be very helpful to have **events coordinator**s who can with other Committee Members work together to put on regular SHRA events. These events include Carols in the Village, the SHRA/AGM social evening and the Strawberry Hill Community Barbecue and Picnic. We also need a marketing and communications coordinator. If you would like to volunteer please ask any Committee Member (details on page 6) or contact us via our website.

Monthly Litter Pick

Our Committee Member **Louisa Carradine** organises a monthly **litter pick at 9:00am on the second Saturday of the month**. This is a great opportunity to keep our village clean and tidy and makes a real difference. For those who have participated it is really quite cathartic. This event is so appealing that we even have two regular litter pickers who come from outside the Strawberry Hill boundaries! If you want to participate just turn up at 9:00am on the second Saturday of the month by the SHRA bench in **Wellesley parade** and equipment will be provided and streets allocated.







Sports in Strawberry Hill

by Andrew Miller, Chairman

When most people think of Twickenham they think **rugby** – and the Allianz, aka Twickenham Stadium or the 'Cabbage Patch'. You may be lucky to win an allocated seat to an England international in the local residents' ballot. You may be a season ticket holder to Harlequins in the Premiership making your way across Strawberry Hill to The Stoop. But **rugby union** is not the only game in Strawberry Hill.



As a sports enthusiast (if you are reading this) where can you watch or participate in sports in Strawberry Hill (and its borders)? Sport brings people together as team mates or spectators/fans so SHRA has an interest in promoting sports to residents.

Rugby Union is played on St Mary's University playing fields on Waldegrave Road. The University teams play in the British Universities and Colleges leagues for men and women on Wednesday afternoons. This is also the home venue for our local club, Thamesians, which was founded in 1962 and it shares the clubhouse on Twickenham Green. Men's matches are on Saturday afternoons and the women's team plays on Sundays.



As a **football** fan you can catch most of the televised games at the **Alexander Pope** or **The Prince Albert** or **Prince Blucher** (the last two are just outside of Strawberry Hill). This is more convivial than watching the games in your home.

The University has teams in about 20 sports – including **badminton, futsal, Gaelic football, hockey, lacrosse, tennis and volleyball** - one of the most celebrated is the **Rugby League team known as The Spartans** – they have special links with London Broncos. Sir Mo Farah, Olympic legend, has also given his name to the **athletics** track in St Mary's University.

For sports that can involve drinking – **darts and snooker** - there is only one place to go in Strawberry Hill, the Royal British Legion Twickenham in Pope's Grove. There are active women's and men's darts teams competing in local leagues and two full-size snooker tables. The Legion is cheap to join and has very competitively priced drinks.
If you want to continue to play **boules/petanque** which you mastered on your French holidays, then head to the Alexander Pope and the boules pit in their front 'garden'.



For **cricket** there is only one place to be in the summer months and that is watching Twickenham Cricket Club on Twickenham Green. You can see the pitch from Strawberry Hill and balls occasionally end up in Strawberry Hill. The Club was founded in 1833 and shares the clubhouse in Twickenham Green. You can follow the men's and women's teams during the season.

Strawberry Hill **Golf** Club has for 125 years been the green heart of Strawberry Hill and the key benefit for local players is being able to wheel their golfing carts from home and avoid using the car.



The other long standing sports club at the centre of Strawberry Hill is, of course, Strawberry Hill **Bowling** Club in Radnor Gardens. There are open days each year where potential new members can have a go at the sport.

Other sports are played in Strawberry Hill, especially within our private and state schools, which also use our green spaces for lessons and sports days – as well as their playgrounds and playing fields.

So, the next time someone complains about the lack of sports in Strawberry Hill, you now know otherwise.

Andrew Miller

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION:
Your contribution is vital in allowing SHRA to maintain and develop its events and activities including litter picks, the Strawberry Hill Community BBQ and 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:** _____

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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

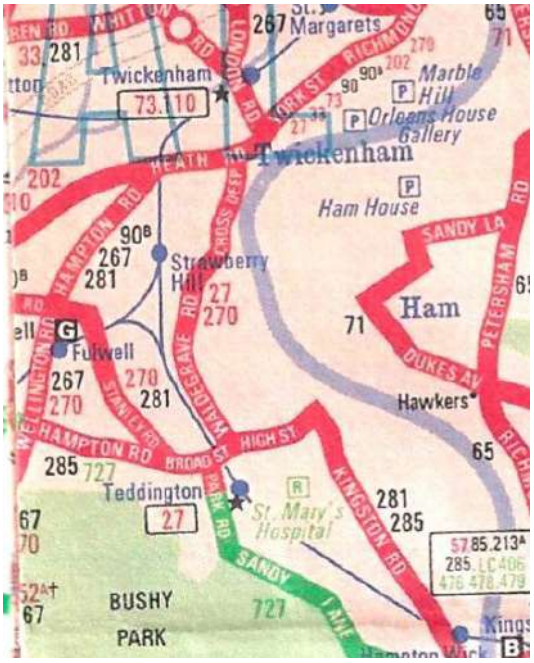
Strawberry_Hill_RA

Strawberry Hill Residents' Association

On the Buses - 1981

by Peter Lamb





As I was riffling through my archive of miscellaneous clutter that defies clearance, I came across a **London Transport bus map from 1981**. It is a pocket sized item that unfolds to reveal a complete map of all the London bus routes on one side and on the other a written list of the routes in very small type together with a larger scale map of the central area of London. These were issued free and I recall having various editions from my earliest excursions on the buses as a child.

Living as I do right by a 33 bus stop, and being sufficiently senior to own a bus pass, I am a frequent user of our local buses, especially the number 33, and greatly appreciate the service on offer. I was therefore particularly intrigued to see whether the routes in our area were different 45 years ago. The bus map showed that they were. If I had lived on Waldegrave Road in 1981, I would have had a choice of two routes. The 270 followed a similar route to the 33 from Richmond to Fulwell.

However it did not go beyond Richmond to Castelnau as it does now. In the opposite direction it went to Fulwell and extended to Hampton Nursery Lands, **but only Monday to Friday and Saturday shopping hours**, not in the evenings. There was also the **27 route** which came all the way from Archway Station via Richmond, but only as far Waldegrave Road at weekends when it terminated at Teddington Station.

On the other side of Strawberry Hill running along the Hampton Road we currently have the **281** (Hounslow-Tolworth) **267** (Fulwell – Hammersmith) **290** (Twickenham – Staines) **R70** (Hampton Nurserylands – Richmond) **681** (schooldays Teddington School - Hounslow).

In 1981 the 281 followed the same route as today, and extended its service to Chessington Industrial Estate Monday to Friday at peak hours. The major difference on the **267** was that it ran from Hampton Court Station. There was the **90B** that ran from Kew Gardens Station via Richmond and Twickenham along the Hampton Road and on to Feltham, Hatton Cross Station and terminated at Yeading. Monday to Friday peak hours it extended to Northolt Station.

Strawberry Vale was not on a bus route. Today the residents in the Vale have the benefit of the **R68**, but in 1981 there were no buses running between Cross Deep and Twickenham Road.

Casting my own thoughts back to what travelling by bus in our area must have been like, **I feel that the services we have now are much better, certainly less complicated**. I am sure some of our more veteran residents recall the network I have described here. I would be interested to hear from anyone who was a regular bus traveller in the past.

The experience of riding the buses has certainly changed. **Back then one could smoke,** but not on single deck buses or on the lower deck of double-deck buses. The smoker was requested to sit at the back of the top deck, but I seem to recall that this was simply a request and not an order. There was many a time I travelled on the top deck in a fug of cigarette smoke surrounded by discarded butt ends, and I confess that I often contributed to this unpleasant miasma.

The fare structure in **1981** was different, and quite complex compared with today. **There was no senior bus pass, today the godsend of people above a certain age**. Fares today are standardised, whereas back then there were flat fare zones where a higher fare was chargeable for crossing from one zone to another. We were in the 'Cardinal Flat Fare Area'. For people needing to use the full network throughout the year there was the London Bus Pass, and for those outside the central London area The Suburban Bus Pass. For our more regular local travel we could have bought a pass for the Cardinal area with the New Flat Fare Area Bus Pass. People wanting a day out on the buses, such as tourists, could buy the Red Bus Rover which gave unlimited travel for a day on all London buses. Unfortunately I don't have the prices for these special tickets.

I remember my first lone forays on the buses as a kid when every bus had a conductor sporting a metal ticket dispenser on a strap. I would board with my pennies at the ready and the conductor came, noting where I had got on, would ask me my destination and then wind a handle on the device to issue a long paper ticket with all the details. This I would clutch in my sweaty hand for the duration of the journey in case an inspector appeared. Double decker buses had an open entrance at the rear, no automatic doors, just a platform with a hand rail. This allowed you to stand on the platform just before alighting, sometimes for fun riding longer than one should, **clinging to the bar ready to jump off as soon as the bus slowed down enough.** Health and safety didn't seem to matter too much.

There is an excellent chapter on transport in Strawberry Hill in the SHRA volume '**Strawberry Hill. A History of the Neighbourhood**' 'Getting About' for which we are indebted to Robert Youngs for his detailed research.

Our readers might also be interested in a YouTube video. The journey from Twickenham to Teddington by trolleybus on the first day of its operation on May 16th, 1931. It is a filmed ride on the top deck from which you can view the area as it was 95 years ago.

Strawberry Hill House - Events Update

A Chivalric Winter at Strawberry Hill House



Thomas Hosmer Shepherd, [Suit of armour], c. 1842. The Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University.

This December, look up as you climb the Gothic staircase at Strawberry Hill. A suit of armour will once again stand in the pointed niche on the way to the Armoury. The display, made possible by a long-term loan from the Victoria and Albert Museum, will bring back a sight that greeted visitors in Horace Walpole's day.

In 1771, **Walpole bought an elaborately decorated suit of French parade armour** from the collector Louis-Antoine Crozat, Baron de Thiers. He believed it had belonged to Francis I of France and commissioned a niche to show it off. The suit is now thought to date from around 1600, probably from the reign of Henri IV. Walpole displayed it alongside arms and heraldic decoration to evoke the world of knights and castles that he imagined for Strawberry Hill.

The staircase also has a place in the history of Gothic fiction. Walpole traced The Castle of Otranto, published in 1764, to a dream in which he saw a gigantic armoured hand on the balustrade of a staircase. He acquired his suit seven years after the novel appeared. With the armour in its niche, visitors could encounter something of the world he had already imagined on the page.



Detail of the V&A armour during conservation. Photo by Angus Patterson, Senior Curator of Metalwork, V&A.

The **V&A suit was made for display in 1869**. It reproduces the armour made for Henri II of France in 1547, now in the Louvre. To make the copy, craftspeople used electricity to deposit copper in moulds taken from individual pieces of the original. They then plated the copper with silver. The technique, known as electrotyping, preserved remarkably fine details, including scenes from the life and death of Julius Caesar.

For Walpole, the staircase armour helped turn a Gothic villa into an imagined castle. Its redisplay provides the starting point for our winter programme…

From Thursday 10 December and into the New Year, Strawberry Hill House will be bedecked in Christmas decorations to get you into the festive spirit, alongside a series of evening events that take inspiration from a bygone age of castles, knights and chivalry.

Festival of the Gothic Imagination Announcement



Photo © Justine Trickett

Strawberry Hill House & Garden, which inspired the world's first Gothic novel back in 1764, is delighted to announce its inaugural **Festival of the Gothic Imagination 21 – 23 May 2027.**

Taking place at Strawberry Hill House & Garden and the neighbouring 19th century Waldegrave Rooms of St Mary's University, the Festival will bring together a stellar line-up of writers, performers, academics, filmmakers, historians and cultural thinkers to delve into the extraordinary world of gothic literature and culture – in the place where it all began.
Horace Walpole's trailblazing novel The Castle of Otranto launched the Gothic literary genre and set the template for centuries of haunted house stories to follow.

The packed schedule of literary talks will include established and emerging names across talks, panels and 'in conversation with' sessions. As well as historic Gothic, headline panels will confront cutting-edge themes like Gothic in the Age of AI and the visceral rise of Body Horror.

Further talks will explore Gothic-inspired music, film, fashion and art. From vampires, monsters, ghosts and haunted castles, the Festival of the Gothic Imagination is a unique celebration of this dark yet captivating genre and aesthetic.
Tickets for the Festival will be released on Friday 4 December 2026 along with the festival schedule. Early booking is recommended, owing to high anticipated demand and limited capacity.

To find out more visit strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/gothic-fest
Imogen Willets Strawberry Hill House

Christmas & New Year Events Update



House Guided Tour – Last Sunday of the Month
22 February-27 December 2026 at 10:00am - 11:00am, the last Sunday of every month



Strawberry Hill After Dark: Wassailing with the Ritual Kitchen
11 December 2026 at 6pm or 8pm



Strawberry Hill After Dark: A Medieval Chorus
30 January 2027 at 6pm or 7:30pm

Fri 11 Dec | Strawberry Hill After Dark: Wassailing with The Ritual Kitchen
Join folklore historian and 'kitchen witch' Laura May for a magical evening of medieval rituals. Sip 'lambswool', an old English mulled beverage as Laura May guides you through the history and folklore of wassailing, before taking part in a traditional wassailing ceremony in the Strawberry Hill Garden.
6pm and 8pm | Experience lasts approx. 75 minutes.
Tickets £32, includes after-hours entry to Strawberry Hill House (open until 9.30pm)
Book Tickets Link

Sat 30 Jan | Strawberry Hill After Dark: A Medieval Chorus
Be immersed in music from the 11th to 15th centuries with performances by the Green Dragon Guild. Experts in medieval music, their repertoire performed with voices and medieval harps spans refined courtly songs, rowdy tavern melodies and the otherworldly music of spiritual reflection.
These will be performed in Strawberry Hill's spectacular Gallery, which Horace Walpole designed to resemble an ancient castle.
6pm - 9pm | With timed performances by Green Dragon Guild
Tickets £32, includes after-hours entry to Strawberry Hill House and a glass of fizz
Book Tickets Link

Sat 13 Feb | Candlelit Late: Tales of Chivalry
Join folklorists and storytellers George Hoyle and Vanessa Woolf from the Bloomsbury Folklore Club for an evening of medieval drama. From the epic Arthurian legend of Sir Percival and beyond, we invite you to sit back and listen to these ancient tales of medieval love, battles and romance and with live music interspersed throughout.
6pm - 9pm | With timed performances by George Hoyle and Vanessa Woolf
Tickets £32, includes after-hours entry to Strawberry Hill House and a glass of fizz
Book Tickets Link

Sundays to 27 December | House Guided Tour
A group guided tour is one of the most engaging ways to appreciate Horace Walpole's Gothic masterpiece. These tours can either be exclusive (outside of opening hours), or if more convenient, during opening hours, and are for a minimum of 15 people.
to -27 December 2026 at 10:00am - 11:00am, the last Sunday of every month
Tickets £27, Student price £22 - must present student card on arrival
Book Tickets Link

Update from St Mary's University

News

St Mary's University Celebrates Installation of New Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor

St Mary's University celebrated the installation of its new Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor at a ceremony in **Westminster Cathedral on 5th November.**

Archbishop of Westminster Richard Moth was installed as the University's second Chancellor, stepping down as St Mary's Chair of Governors following 15 years' service. He succeeds HE Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who was the University's inaugural Chancellor when St Mary's was awarded full university status in 2014.

In the ceremony, **Rev Dr Øystein Lund was also formally installed as the University's Vice-Chancellor**. Øystein joined St Mary's in the summer, having previously served as Counsellor for Research and Education at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in London.

Speaking of the Installation, St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Rev Dr Øystein Lund said, "*Today has been a joyous day of celebration for the St Mary's University Community. I am honoured to be installed as St Mary's new Vice-Chancellor, and it is a great privilege to see Archbishop Richard become our new Chancellor, following 15 years of outstanding service to our University.*"

St Mary's is a special university, where academic ambition and the development of the whole person go hand in hand. I look forward to driving forward our future growth to enhance our impact on the communities we serve, including the development of the School of Medicine and the opportunities we have to collaborate with partners around the world."

Attendees at the installation included Apostolic Nuncio H.E. Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia, H.E. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, and Norwegian Ambassador to the UK H.E. Tore Hattrem. They were joined by clergy from different churches and nations, university leaders from across Europe, members of academia, and students, staff and alumni, from St Mary's University.

St Mary's University Named Finalist at Times Higher Education Awards

St Mary's University, London has been shortlisted in three different categories for the Times Higher Education (THE) Awards 2026.
The awards are an annual event that celebrates exceptional work, innovation, and achievements in UK and Irish universities.
St Mary's University is a finalist for the categories 'International Collaboration of the Year', 'Outstanding Marketing and Communications Team', and 'Outstanding Estates Team'.
The nomination for 'International Collaboration of the Year' is for the partnership between St Mary's University and the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE). The partnership demonstrates how international collaboration can drive institutional transformation through genuine reciprocity.
The partnership began as a postgraduate initiative and has since evolved into a strategic alliance spanning postgraduate education, doctoral study, research collaboration, and academic development. Since 2023, more than 200 educators have engaged with programmes across the partnership, while five MIE academics are currently studying on the Professional Doctorate in Education at St Mary's.
The nomination for 'Outstanding Estates Team' reflects how the Estates team have been redefining the role of estates in higher education through a distinctive model of co-creation, community, and integration with the academic mission. The team has transformed the estate from a collection of buildings into a student-centred ecosystem of spaces that support learning, wellbeing, and belonging.
Students are active partners in estate development, contributing directly to the design and delivery of projects. This approach has delivered innovative spaces such as the Living Room and The 1850. The team has also reduced carbon emissions by 15% in a single year and safeguarded a complex heritage estate.
The Marketing and Communications team have been shortlisted for their work on a unified brand framework across recruitment, communications, and student experience. This approach has had a measurable impact on the University, with the team strengthening institutional coherence, improving student engagement across the lifecycle, and delivering reputational improvements.
Speaking on this announcement Deputy Vice-Chancellor Jo Blunden said, "Everyone at St Mary's is incredibly proud of our School of Education, Estates, and Marketing and Communications teams for being shortlisted for awards at the 2026 Times Higher Education awards. Their work is a fantastic example of how innovation, collaboration, and agility can have a real impact on the wider University community. At St Mary's, we celebrate collaboration and taking a values driven approach. These teams are all great examples of that, and this sector recognition is a brilliant endorsement of our approach."
All winners will be announced at the Times Higher Education Awards Ceremony taking place on Thursday 26 November in Birmingham.

St Mary's University

Short Courses- Strawberry Hill Residents Welcome

By Sairah Ali, short courses administrator

Make 2027 the year you invest in yourself – right here on your doorstep!

As St Mary's University, we're proud to be part of the local community and passionate about making learning accessible to our neighbours. Whether you're looking to improve your fitness, enhance your wellbeing, learn a new language or explore a new career path, our range of expert-led short courses offers opportunities to develop new skills, meet like-minded people and achieve your goals.
Based at our Twickenham and Teddington campuses, our courses are open to the local community and beyond.
With small class sizes, experienced tutors and a welcoming university learning environment, you can benefit from high-quality teaching right on your doorstep.

As part of our commitment to the local community, ***Strawberry Hill residents can enjoy a 10% discount on many of our short courses.***

Learn to Lift: Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced
Starting 6 January 2027
Build strength, improve your fitness and gain confidence in the gym.
Whether you're taking your first steps into weight training or looking to refine your technique, our Learn to Lift courses provide expert coaching in a supportive environment.
Delivered in our state-of-the-art Performance Education Centre (PEC), you'll benefit from personalised guidance and practical learning tailored to your experience level.

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Starting 7 January 2027
Take your running further with targeted strength training designed specifically for runners and cyclists. You can choose from a 7pm or 8pm start time and the session will be 1 hour long, running for 10 weeks.
Led by experienced coaches, this practical course will help you improve running efficiency, build strength and stability, reduce the risk of injury, and develop safe, effective training techniques. Small group sizes ensure plenty of individual support and feedback throughout

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Naomi, Liz, Sairah and Anna

Local Business :
Exploring the Alexander Pope Pub and Hotel in Strawberry Hill



There has been a public House on the site at Cross Deep since 1852, built by Mr Young and Mr Bainbridge and it has a fascinating history. Listed as the **Grotto Hotel in the 1901** census, the original building was destroyed in an explosion in 1944 apparently by a Doodlebug V1 flying bomb. When it was rebuilt it reopened in 1959 as 'Popes Grotto' and was known as such during the 1980's and 90's. Now a much altered and enlarged **Pub and Hotel known as 'The Alexander Pope', since 2009**, it is sited on what was once part of the grounds attached to Pope's Villa a wonderful position overlooking the Thames riverside in the heart of Strawberry Hill.

For those interested in further details of the history of the Alexander Pope there is a detailed account in the history section of our website.

SHRA committee member Fiona Maxwell sat down with the new General Manager Designate Emma Sebrof and Head Chef Jamie Buclaw to learn about their plans for the venue and help introduce both to the local community.

Q. Emma you recently took over as General Manager designate from Robin Smith. Did you already know this area of London?
A. Well in my previous career I was an air hostess for Virgin Atlantic and lived in Hampton Hill. But I didn't really know what Strawberry Hill and Twickenham had to offer until I came here to stay and had a chance to explore. It's wonderful having Radnor gardens opposite and to learn that the pub is situated within the original grounds of Alexander Pope's five acre Garden. I have enjoyed learning the history of Eel Pie island through the local Museum and discovering the Naked Ladies statues in York House Gardens . I was drawn to explore when walking along Twickenham Riverside and heard the water from the fountains and caught sight of what looked like water nymphs through the hedge.

Q. So what first brought you into the career of catering and hospitality?
A. I fell in love with Hong Kong during my stewardess days and moved there to work in hospitality. I worked in Delaney's Irish pub which is a historic institution in Hong Kong famous for introducing Guinness on tap to the city. During my time in Asia I oversaw 10 hospitality venues in Hong Kong and at Macau Casino and I managed Jamie Oliver Asia in Singapore.

I returned to UK to help my elderly mother who was living in a remote part of Cornwall. Here I trained with the Saint Austell Brewery becoming Operations Manager at the Five Star Headland Hotel and later moving on to General Manager of the Pier House a 23 room Hotel in Newquay. Having moved back to London and spent time at The Dog and Fox in Wimbledon and I am excited for the opportunities here.

Q. Emma What is your philosophy for the future of the business?
A. My Ambition for the business is for this to be a community Pub, creating an inviting atmosphere where locals want to spend the afternoon. I have bought retro board games for people to relax and spend the afternoon.The Restaurant side is very much my focus, I am food driven and I want the Alexander Pope to be a destination dining choice for people in the area. I want to make Friday and Saturday nights a big outing choice by improving the ambiance, with touches such as the lighting and decor.

Q. How important is the Hotel side of the business?
A. Very important, we have just completed a refurbishment on all of the bedrooms and installed a keycard security entrance for residents. There is a separate team for the hotel who cover reception and housekeeping, with night porters also on the team. The hotel revenue is very important to the business and local families also use the hotel when friends and relatives visit. Rooms are booked out months in advance for Rugby days. If there are ever flight delays or cancellations at Heathrow our rooms are also in high demand. With 28 parking spaces we can usually accommodate out of London guests.



Q. The rooms in the Hotel are described as boutique. What is the capacity and breadth of facilities that you offer?
A. There are 32 Bedrooms with ensuite, stylishly refreshed with mini bar and tea and coffee making facilities. The building has wheelchair ramps and there are two fully accessible rooms with a connecting door if travelling with a carer. The recent renovation has extended to the Function Room which has a seated capacity of 35 and has it's own garden terrace. Breakfasts are served in the bright atrium with a river view towards Radnor Gardens.

Local Business :
Exploring the Alexander Pope Pub and Hotel in Strawberry Hill







Q. Jamie what was your first step into the catering industry?
A. I started at 19 in Shrewsbury, Shropshire on a 1 year course which included a student run restaurant on graduation. As a Commis chef I then applied for a scholarship in Bloomsbury square. Sadly I didn't get the scholarship but met a lot of people in the industry. One of the scholarship contestants worked at Browns Hotel in Albemarle street in Mayfair. He helped me get a position there which instigated my move to London. I also worked at 'Dinner by Heston' at the Mandarin Hotel, a two Michelin restaurant. I found that environment very pressured so I moved on to a Demi Chef position at Brunswick House in Vauxhall where I also worked front of House. I then Joined Youngs Brewery six and half years ago at the Thomas Cubitt pub in Belgravia.

Q. Jamie you are also new to this venue. What brought you to the Alexander Pope and have you worked locally prior to this?
A. I was already with Youngs Brewery as Head Chef at The Boathouse in Putney. This is my Fourth Head Chef role under Youngs. The Brewery wanted a re-vamp at the Alexander Pope so suggested I join as Head Chef and work closely with the new General Manager to put together a good team.

Q I understand you have designed the new menu, tell me about that.
A. I take pride in making as much as I can in-house such as the bread and desserts. Sunday is our big day, regularly with over a hundred pre-booked tables and it's becoming more popular as word of the new menu spreads. All our roasts are cooked from scratch, whole rumps, whole Chicken, legs of lamb and Pork Belly. The menus are changed twice a year with seasonal additions for Autumn winter etc.

Q. The Alexander Pope is a Youngs Pub. How much freedom do you have to tailor the offerings and put your stamp on the business?
A. Youngs is a great organisation, they control the supplier list centrally using their buy-in power to negotiate great deals on British produce. In terms of the menu every Youngs pub has a requirement to offer Youngs staples such as fish and chips, sausage and mash and classic burgers. But the head chef controls the ordering and has the freedom to add specials and put their style into the menu.

Q. Twickenham Rugby days are very busy throughout the Borough, how do you cater for these event days?
A. Rugby matches are huge days for the business, pre match lunches are the busiest time and are fully booked in advance for months. We offer a set menu of two to three courses which are pre chosen to expedite service. Extra staff are brought in for match days and we add around twenty to the headcount. We also have a garden bar with Guinness on tap for walk ins, and food is available from our outdoor pizza shack and BBQ area. There are also big screens for the outdoor diners. Then we cater inside for a second wave of customers coming to dine and to watch the match. Then later we accommodate the post game drinkers who have been at the stadium. We also put on live music inside after the match which all adds to the atmosphere.

Q. Do you see other opportunities for the pub becoming more involved in community activities?
A. Christmas time gives that opportunity, hopefully local business will book their parties here. That should help to forge business relationships and friendships locally. We are also happy to host sampler events for locals.

The next SHRA community event is Carols in the Village on December 4th so we hope to see you there. Thank you for your sponsorship contribution to the event.

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