

Station garden lost in shops plan

The small garden and trees, planted by SHRA 20 years ago, will disappear under plans to redevelop the old cobbler's shop.

The garden was designed to SHRA specifications by a local landscape gardener and planted using SHRA funds and a contribution from Richmond-upon-Thames Council.



Harji's cobbler's shop, soon to be redeveloped

Join us for a glass of wine at the AGM

The annual general meeting of Strawberry Hill Residents Association will take place at Strawberry Hill Golf Club, Wellesley Road, at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 9th April 2014.

Among highlights of the evening, Nick Smith, Director of Strawberry Hill House, will describe the latest refurbishment plans for Horace Walpole's 'unseen' apartments (see page 4).

A donation of £200 from a collection held at the carol concert in December will be presented to Roy Kinnear House. After the meeting, you are invited to have a complimentary glass of wine and to chat to other residents and the Committee.



A clause of the planning consent for the new development requires the Council to approve new landscaping and planting.

The application was granted to MKG 3000 next door to the row of shops. The company proposes to build a new shop with a flat above. SHRA understands the design will be in keeping with the rest of the shops in the terrace.

Access to the flat will be through the garden area necessitating the removal of the three silver birch trees and some of the planting. Before the landscaping, the space had been run down for many years and attracted rubbish dumping.

Stefan Kadlubowski, owner of MKG 3000, said: "The birch tree at the front will remain, but the three birches behind will be removed. This is on order of Richmond Council which says the trees are wrongly planted. I understand that Bruce Duff, the Chair of SHRA, is talking to the Golf Club about re-planting the trees in their grounds."

Work on the area and the development of the cobbler's shop is scheduled to begin in April and will take six months. Mr Kadlubowski added that the area would be re-landscaped to the highest standards.

SHRA will seek to keep readers up to date with plans for the garden area in the next issue of The Bulletin.



The garden today, seen through the temporary railings

In this issue...

You may have noticed that 2014 is the centenary of the start of World War I. There's a preliminary article on the back page and an appeal for help. We're planning a more comprehensive article in the next Bulletin.

Our hyper-local playwright, Dianne Cutlack, has written her third play about a local artistic figure: JMW Turner, if you count St Margaret's as being local. It explores his life and character and is being performed at Strawberry Hill House, *inter alia*. We've interviewed Dianne - see page 2, where you can also find ticketing information.

Our new business, Bradley Smith has arrived in what was McDowell's grocery and there's an article about Bradley and his 'angels' on page 5.

Film festival opens at St Mary's College

The second Twickenham Alive film festival will open at Strawberry Hill House on Thursday 29th May.

Teresa Read, a joint organizer and SHRA Committee member, says: "this year we have a short animation which has been made in cooperation by children in Latvia, Portugal and Norway. There is also a very good travel film made in India by a local 16 year old school boy with close ups of a tiger in its natural habitat. There are quite a few animations and some films of parts of the borough. We have a very good documentary about the making of last year's winner, the Magick of Twickenham."



The Awards and Screenings will take place on the 29th May at St Mary's student theatre adjoining the student bar. Tickets available on line from Twickenham Alive and www.twickenhamfilmfestival.com.

The main Festival sponsor is LensLocker of Twickenham.

Dianne explores the life of an enigmatic painter

Our local playwright has written her third play

Poised to see her third play staged at Strawberry Hill House, local playwright Dianne Cutlack was surprised at the contradictions she found in the great painter JMW Turner. "This is the most difficult play I have written," says Dianne. "Turner turned out to be a puzzle. For example, he had a secret family with a mistress and two daughters. He didn't treat the women in his life well."

In short, Turner, the towering genius of English painting, was a self-centred artist. Not much known about his connections with Strawberry Hill. "He lived for 15 years at Sandycombe Lodge, St Margarets, and must have visited Strawberry Hill. But no sketches survive. Many sketches were destroyed after his death."

Dianne says she found Turner a sad character. "He didn't achieve what he thought was his due. He wanted to be thought of as a gentleman, but was rejected by smart society." Even though he became a professor at the Royal Academy, Turner was never appointed President. He only received one commission from King George and his famous painting of The Battle of Trafalgar was not liked at the time.



Dianne and 'Turner' - actor Leigh Stevenson - at Sandycombe Lodge

Nonetheless, he died a wealthy man and today his reputation has never been higher. Dianne adds: "With Sandycombe Lodge now on English Heritage's Heritage at Risk Register, I hope to raise awareness of Turner's House Trust's exciting project for its much-needed and urgent restoration."

See the box on the left for further details of performances.

Schools' parking issues close to solution

Long running issues about parking by parents at St Catherine's and Radnor House Schools may be close to a solution following a meeting in January between residents and the Heads of the two schools.

Cllr. David Marlow, who attended the meeting, is to press the Council for more stringent parking regulations. The proposed solution would see Grotto Road become one-way with additional double yellow lines. Residents whose homes back on to Grotto Road beside St Catherine's School complain that cars of parents of pupils at the two schools block access to their garages.

Glen Tuttsell, who lives on the corner of Grotto Road and Cross Deep says: "We and many other residents are frustrated by the cars that constantly block access to our homes. Over the years, we have sent numerous letters and emails, to both schools, highways and transport and parking enforcement bodies. We have attended Council meetings, and have called Twickenham Police on several occasions to attend heated moments with drivers with road rage, that have been abusive and physically threatened my family."

'JMW Turner' returns to Twickenham

Dianne's new play, 'Elemental', runs from Friday 28th March to Sunday 6th April at three venues: Strawberry Hill House Gallery, the Riverside Room at Richmond Old Town Hall and Twickenham Library.

Tickets are £18 for evening performances and £15 for afternoon matinees. They can be booked at:

www.thepersistentplaywright.co.uk

for Richmond Town Hall and Twickenham Library and at:

www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/events

for Strawberry Hill House Gallery.

Turner and Pope's Villa

Our fine art correspondent writes

If there's no evidence that Turner ever visited Strawberry Hill House, he was certainly aware of the other great 18th century house in our area - Pope's Villa. In 1808, the occupant, Baroness Howe, demolished the building, reportedly being inconvenienced by the constant flow of visitors to the Villa and Pope's garden.

Turner had compared Pope favourably to Virgil and must have been distressed at this act of vandalism for he commemorated the demolition with a large oil painting, 'Pope's Villa at Twickenham, During its Dilapidation' - a view of the house with workmen in the foreground inspecting the relics of the Villa.

It was initially purchased by Sir John Leicester and came on to the market in 2008 when it was purchased by a collector in the USA, who had previously occupied Ryan House, between the Villa (now Radnor House School) and Radnor Gardens.

British institutions were unable to match the sale price and an Export Licence was granted later that year. The painting went to the USA with its American owner, probably never to return. Thus, the physical manifestation of a connection between Twickenham's greatest literary and artistic figures was lost to the nation forever.

A preliminary sketch for the painting is held in Tate Britain and a full-size print can be seen in the reception area of Radnor House School.



'Pope's Villa at Twickenham, During its Dilapidation' by JMW Turner, 1808



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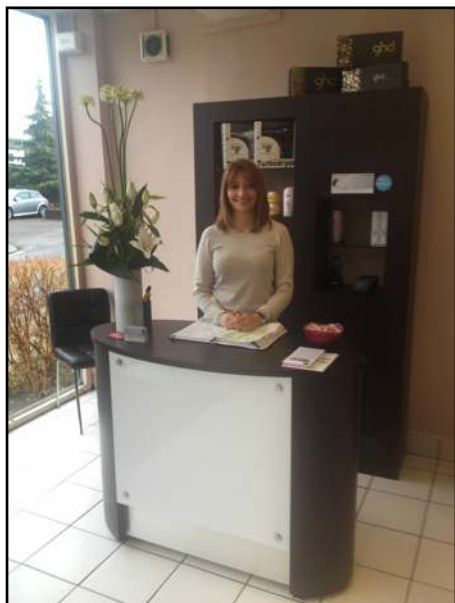
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Charlotte's long-lived salon meets the challenge of change

Nestling in the heart of Strawberry Hill, Kyzan[†] hairdressing is one of the village's oldest-established businesses. Kyzan (what does the name mean?) opened 14 years ago and proprietor Charlotte Brazil said the village looked quite different then."



Charlotte Brazil of Kyzan

"When we opened our doors there was an estate agent and Jules the dress shop opposite. The car rental business was next door with the Melting Pot restaurant and Steven's shop and off-licence at the other side of the level crossing." Charlotte and her business partner, Robert Benardout, chose Strawberry Hill because they noticed a 'To let' sign on the empty shop and just decided to go for it!"

"We are very happy here in Strawberry Hill"

"Nothing in my career has really been planned. I have just taken opportunities as they have arisen and made the most of them," says Charlotte. "That includes my first job in hairdressing after I left Waldegrave School when my mother noticed an ad for a junior in a salon and suggested I give it a try."

As they have developed the business in the village many of their clients are local though some did follow Charlotte and her fellow stylists from their previous salons. "Staff are happy to work here and many of them have been with Kyzan since the beginning."

They have some interesting clients too, including some of our local celebrities though of course Charlotte is too discreet to name anyone! One of Charlotte's clients taught her at Waldegrave School and then went on to become Head Mistress of Tiffin Girls' school before she retired recently.



Kyzan in Tower Road

Charlotte says "We are very happy here in Strawberry Hill and, having survived the very disruptive development of the block we are in, we look forward to being here for many years to come."

[†] Kyzan, or kaizan, is Japanese for 'continuous improvement'

Local issues aired at Council forum

Support for local business was one of the mayor suggestions which Richmond Council will act on following the first Your Strawberry Hill forum in December. Over 40 people including residents and representatives of local charities were told about the services and volunteering opportunities in the Borough, says John Addicott, the Community Links Co-ordinator.

The day long meetings concluded in the evening with suggestions for improving the local economy and how local businesses in Strawberry Hill could be helped.

Business Breakfast

As a result, a Business Breakfast meeting was set up for all local business people including freelancers and those working from home – there are a lot in our area – to network and see how they could play a bigger role in the Community.

Results of the meeting, held on March 25 after The Bulletin's deadline, will be reported in the next Bulletin.

Police foil car theft

A recent attempt at vehicle crime in Strawberry Hill appears to have been foiled by the police. A buggy and baby seat were stolen overnight from a parked vehicle using a device that circumvents BMW security.

The device works by blocking the locking system of the vehicle and opening the doors; it can even start the engines of some models of BMW. In this case the police restored the items to their owner after stopping a car that was carrying the stolen property.

The details of the incident were circulated by means of the Neighbourhood Watch network, raising awareness of the need for vigilance in the street, especially by owners of BMWs. Police warn that parked BMWs are sometimes spotted and listed for later theft.

Other examples of typical crime in this part of the borough include theft of bicycles, shed break-ins and occasional residential burglaries.

Borough's safest ward

Strawberry Hill is part of the South Twickenham Metropolitan Police area, which is the safest ward in the safest borough in London. However, when crime strikes, it is none the less distressing for it being rare. The Neighbourhood Watch network liaises with the police and aims to keep the area safe by encouraging neighbourliness, raising awareness of crime and cutting opportunities for crime.

To join the Neighbourhood Watch in your street, or to volunteer to be a coordinator yourself, you can contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team on 020 8721 2910, South Twickenham. Email:

SNT@met.police.uk

There is also a police contact point at Dolce Vita Café, St Mary's University College, open to the public and staffed every Wednesday and Thursday from 7.00 to 8.00 p.m. and Saturday 2.00 - 3.00 p.m.

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New rooms add lustre to Strawberry Hill House

There's lots going on at Horace Walpole's Villa over Easter

Five rooms, previously inaccessible, have been opened at Strawberry Hill House. While yet to be restored, the rooms add insights into the life of Horace Walpole. Restoration will begin later this year thanks to a grant from The Lottery Heritage Fund. The rooms include Walpole's bedroom where he dreamt the dream which inspired the first gothic horror novel *The Castle of Otranto*, and the Green Closet, his study where he wrote some of his collection of 4,000 letters.

Visitors can see the unique Breakfast Room, which was used by both Walpole and Lady Waldegrave as their private living-space. While this room is being restored, its various layers of decoration over the centuries will be left visible. They include the room's last incarnation as an Edwardian smoking room. George Bernard Shaw described it as "the most immoral room in England". It was recently used as the film location for the Chelsea Arts Club in ITV's 'Mr Selfridge'.

Bunnies, beans and happy cress-heads

Horace Walpole may have had something a little grander in mind when planning his famous gothic villa, but over the Easter weekend visitors making their way round the house will be able to enjoy a bunny hunt. The Strawberry Hill House sewing bee has been hard at work knitting the bunnies and those who find them all will get a chocolate prize!



Children sampling last year's bean crop

As Easter is late, the holiday activities for children will be starting on Saturday 5th April with a drop-in 'Happy Head' workshop where they can make their own 'cress-heads' and keep the rest of the family supplied with cress for their egg sandwiches.

Other sessions will include a 'Jack and the Beanstalk' story-telling and plant-a-beanstalk hour for the under 5s. A Fab Fabergé workshop offers a chance to learn about the egg maestro and his gorgeous jewels and then try making one - though from papier mache and chocolate rather than gold and precious stones.

Some of the sessions will need booking and all the details are on the Strawberry Hill House website:

www.strawberryhillhouse.org.co.uk

Posset pause

Those in need of sustenance after a gruelling bunny hunt or workshop may also want to consider visiting the newly named Cloister Coffee House. The menu now offers some 18th century options - the brainchild of the team behind Brula in St Margarets. So if you think lemon posset is for you, you might want to call in before ending your tour.

Better still, there is 'Sausages to boy!' (sausages and stew with lentils and beans) and 'Forc'd beef pye' with garden vegetables and mustard!



Easter bunnies await collection on the shell bench in the garden of Strawberry Hill House


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Annual Pope's Grotto Openings

Pope's Grotto in Radnor House School has opened during the Twickenham Festival in June for the last several years. This year, it'll be open on the mornings of Saturdays 7th and 14th June. The Grotto is the last remaining part of Pope's Villa and was famous in the 18th century. Even today it attracts national and international interest.

If you've never visited our local Grotto, this is your opportunity. It's turned into something of local social occasion in the last few years. There's an excellent coffee bar and a terrace with tables affording views down river to central Twickenham and across to Ham. Visitors spend a lot of time drinking coffee here and chatting and reading the display boards in the Grotto itself.

Timed tickets will be issued for 10:30, 11:00, 11:30 and 12:00 and will be available during May from the Festival Organisers: Twickenham the Town:

www.twickenhamthetown.org.uk

This may be the last chance to see the Grotto in its unrestored state: the school hopes to begin restoration in 2015:.

www.popesgrotto.org.uk



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Festive carollers at tree unveiling

A superb turnout defied the bleak weather in mid-December for the annual Christmas carol event. Excited children dressed the Christmas tree, mulled wine flowed and mince pies were plentiful.

The event got everyone in a festive mood in the run up to Christmas. Carols were led by the community choir from Strawberry Hill House.

Carmel Kinnear opened the event with Stephen Speak, the deputy mayor of Richmond-upon-Thames. A collection raised more than £200 which will be presented to the local charity, Roy Kinnear House, the home for eight severely disabled young adults in Waldegrave Road, at the AGM (see page 1).



The Deputy Mayor speaks to Carmel Kinnear

Bradley's Angels bid to beautify

From builder to beauty salon owner, Bradley Smith is bringing a new look to Strawberry Hill. His hair studio and beauty salon in Tower Road opened in January staffed by his self-styled 'Bradley's Angels'. Customers of all ages were quick to arrive. Now he is offering hairdressing and beauty treatments from spray-tanning to waxing and from nail treatments to cuts and blow dries. Students from Strawberry Hill get special rates, as do OAPs and children. This is Bradley's second salon. He runs the only salon at Heathrow - in Terminal 5 - and has cut the hair of many celebrities from Craig David to Stephen Hendry.



Bradley and his angels in the salon

"the salon has really taken off very quickly"

Bradley's story is unusual. Dyslexic, he was dubbed 'stupid' at school. He left home at 14 and became a builder. But Bradley is also a hard worker and when out of the blue he asked for a job in a hair salon, he progressed quickly from pushing a broom to an apprenticeship.

Celebs

Soon Bradley was in demand. Then one of his famous customers - Winelia Forsyth, wife of Bruce Forsyth - suggested he open the Heathrow salon. That was four years ago. "My ambition is to own a chain of salons. Strawberry Hill seems just the place for me. I like it here very much."

Bradley transformed the former grocer's shop almost single-handedly. "I was a builder after all. I like hard work. Although I am dyslexic, I can do anything with my hands." As for hard work, Bradley, like his salon, is open for business seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays. "I never take holidays - except for Christmas Day."

Manager Sinead Bell and the staff of hairdressers and beauty consultants are referred to as Bradley's Angels. Sinead says "the salon has really taken off very quickly."

Hunt for Heroes

Committee vice-chair Peter Lamb investigates Strawberry Hill in the First World War

With the centenary of WW I looming, SHRA is seeking memories of local people who served in the armed forces during the 'war to end wars'. Peter Lamb, SHRA Committee member, is leading the research. He is eager to receive any stories, letters or pictures of local men and women who took part.

Peter says: "Of most interest so far are Major Guy Leathley Chater, who lived at 11 Waldegrave Gardens, and his neighbour 2nd Lieutenant Hubert Joseph Pownall who lived at number 13. The former served in the 1st Norfolk Regiment. I've tracked him down in a family tree on Ancestry.com and hope to get some more info.

Hubert Pownall was born in 1890 and as a child lived at number 20 Cross Deep. His father died in 1907 and his mother remarried a few years later to John Behan who lived at 13 Waldegrave Gardens. On the outbreak of the war, Hubert Pownall enlisted in the Honourable Artillery Company. Later in 1914 he obtained a commission in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. In April 1915, he went to France, where in an engagement at the end of May he was gassed, and after a period in hospital in France, was invalided home. Having served at home for several months, he returned to France in May 1916, and took part in the severe fighting at



Hubert Pownall

the beginning of the July 'push'. He was killed on 23rd July 1916 in the engagement that took place at High Wood. He was buried in Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval.

If any resident has stories, photographs, anecdotes or any information relating to Strawberry Hill at the time of the Great War, Peter would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact him direct at:

lambpc0950@hotmail.com

Peter adds, "There's lots more to come. A fuller article will appear in the next Bulletin as well as articles on other aspects of Strawberry Hill during the Great War. In this way we hope our community will remember and honour the people of Strawberry Hill whose lives were affected by that terrible conflict."



The war memorial in Radnor Gardens which commemorates the men and women who fell in the Great War



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