

**No. 160 Spring 2016**

## New Caterers in Radnor Gardens Café

**News of the café from Cllr. Clare Head.** I have been privileged to be the Chairman of Friends of Radnor Gardens (FoRG), South Twickenham's own lovely piece of greenness, for many years. We have a children's playground, a well-kept bowling green, a new public toilet and a summer café.

It is the café that I want to speak about. A thriving café depends on a heavy footfall and we don't have that. I am delighted to say that two local business men, who run successful photography firms, have decided to take it over. It will open before Easter 2016 (they are aiming for 17 March) and the FoRG



*The café as it is now*

introduce yourselves to Marcus Clackson and Michael Farenden. Please tell them what food and drink you would like and any other ideas you have.



*How the proposed café will look*

committee have been very impressed with their enthusiastic and business-like approach. They have seen the café limp along for some time and want to revitalise it, with imaginative and creative ideas to make it a going concern.

We have gained Council permission for them to enter the café to thoroughly clean and repaint the interior. They have devised a straightforward but high quality menu and will be asking local residents for their suggestions. If you see them round and about the café do please

They have great plans to create a beautiful covered wooden pergola as a shelter for our wonderfully inclement summers! We hope that in the summer months they can get a TEN (temporary event notice for 48 hours). This means that they could serve alcohol on Friday and Saturday nights with an evening meal. You would be able to stroll down, sit and relax in the Gardens perhaps watching white-clad bowlers on the green, sipping your wine whilst eating a delicious meal! Watch this space (and their blackboards)! But the vital ingredient is you!

### In this issue...

Changes are afoot this Spring, with improvements to the **Radnor Gardens** café. Cllr Head brings us up to speed. **Pope's Grotto** is heading for restoration, and we bring news of a fundraising symposium on Alexander Pope to be held on his birthday in May. There is news of a change of Director at **Strawberry Hill House** and information about upcoming activities there.

We examine the achievements of an interesting **previous resident of Strawberry Hill** and we also look at considerate building practice when we renovate our homes.

Peter Lamb continues his **Hunt for Heroes**, as we go into the centenary of those dreadful battles on the Somme. And finally, Charles Owens keeps us up-to-date with **Neighbourhood Watch**.

They are also planning an opening Easter Egg Hunt and future children's parties as well as other exciting events throughout the year, so please, please support them. You can email me initially on [clareorelhead@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clareorelhead@hotmail.co.uk) or ring me on 077 349 589 88 and tell me what you think. Please don't be shy. Pick up the phone or email me with your comments, suggestions and views! I will forward them to Marcus and Michael. We need to hear from you.

To encourage you to come along and try out the new facility, Marcus and Michael would like to offer a free coffee, tea or hot chocolate to anyone buying food (cake, pastries, sandwiches etc.) during their first fortnight, mentioning the Bulletin opening offer.

### SHRA AGM: 27th April

#### Come along to the Annual General Meeting of SHRA: It's YOUR Association!

The 51st Annual General Meeting of the Strawberry Hill Residents' Association will take place on 27 April from 7.30 p.m. at Strawberry Hill Golf Club. Everyone who lives in the Strawberry Hill area is a member of the association, so come along and elect your committee for the year. After the meeting, you are invited to have a complimentary glass of wine and to chat to other residents and the Committee.





## The SHRA Christmas Event

On 11<sup>th</sup> December the annual tree unveiling and carol-singing event took place in Wellesley Parade. It was a dry evening and we had a good turnout of residents and children, who as usual, made an excellent job of decorating the tree. It was a pity that this year quite a lot of the decorations later disappeared – rather disappointing for the little children who had taken such pride in putting them up.

However, the evening itself was great fun. Helen Astrid led the choir, which had been practising over previous days. The children sang Away in a Manger beautifully, and mulled wine, mince pies and chocolate treats were consumed.



*Helen Astrid leads the carol singing*



*Bruce Duff presenting a cheque to Nick*

A cheque for £250, collected in donations at the event, was handed in January to Nick Smith for the Strawberry Hill House Peacock fund. Our thanks to Nick for coming along to the carol event to tell us about the Peacock fund. And we send our very best wishes to Nick who has now left our area to become Heritage Manager of the Western Isles.

## A goodbye from Nick Smith

I have had the most extraordinary time as Director at Strawberry Hill, and I find it hard to believe that six years have passed since I joined the project in late March 2010. At that time our office was a small temporary cabin and I worked amongst the contractors whilst planning the opening of the restored building.

It has been a privilege to take a project from such a state to the popular and innovative historic house visitor attraction which Strawberry Hill has become in 2016. Our team grew from two staff in the early days to a dozen staff and over 200 volunteers this year, delivering activities in conservation, education, outreach, development, landscape, visitor services, and research.

When I leave for my new role as Heritage Manager for the Western Isles Council I will of course do so with some sadness. Together as a team we have created a superb restoration and an amazing visitor experience, and in doing so have been recognised with some significant awards from the European Union, the British Guild of Travel Writers, and London in Bloom.

**Nick Smith**

Outgoing Director of Strawberry Hill House

## News of Farish Short

Farish Short were asked to be a local expert on the BBC1 show Homes Under The Hammer! Filming took place in December and is due out in the Spring.

After 18 successful months and much consideration we are not going to renew our lease. We're delighted with how successful we've been, however we were originally an online business and have confirmed over these months that estate agency is moving that way. The majority of our business is done online and via referrals from clients. We will return to our serviced office previously occupied in Teddington, contact details remain the same and most importantly our service does. **Rosella Short**

## And a hello from Nick Dolan

I am hugely grateful for this early chance to write to say 'hello', and introduce myself – I am Nick Dolan, the new Director for Strawberry Hill House...and I am excited to be so.

In the summer I completed 15 years as a General Manager with the National Trust in the North East of England, looking after Souter Lighthouse (the first purpose-built electric lighthouse in the world), The Leas (a rugged coastline and wildflower grassland, where the Great North Run finishes), Washington Old Hall (the ancestral home of George Washington) and Ormesby Hall (an 18<sup>th</sup> century Palladian country house and estate), and recently other landscapes on the Yorkshire Moors and coast. Before that, I spent 15 years as Keeper of Decorative Arts for Tyne & Wear Museums.

My accent is not a North East one – I was born in Surrey, was a baby in Staines, then my family and I moved to Berkshire, where I went to school and college, before taking my degree in the History of Design and the Visual Arts in Staffordshire. This provided me with valuable background knowledge on art, architecture and design in an historical context.

I have known of Strawberry Hill all my life – my father (94 in March) came over from Ireland during WW2 to do his teacher training at the college here. (He has fond memories of it, and is looking forward to revisiting). I recognise what a jewel Strawberry Hill is, and what an honour it is to have been appointed.

My partner Fiona will be joining me down here soon – she has an antiques and vintage shop in the North East, so is in the process of winding that down, though she will continue the business on-line and locally when south.

I look forward to being part of the community, and thank you for your support of Strawberry Hill House.

**Best wishes, Nick Dolan**



## What's on at Strawberry Hill House

2016 sees the 300th anniversary of one of England's greatest gardeners, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Strawberry Hill joins the celebration of all things outdoors with its opening campaign, **Botanicals**.

Although not a Capability Brown garden, Strawberry Hill is an example of an English landscape garden and, like Pope's garden, early among those designed in the naturalistic style. Started by Horace Walpole in 1747, Strawberry Hill's garden was laid out in a manner that evoked a semi-natural, pastoral, landscape using a design to complement the gothic revival castle for which it forms a backdrop.



'Botanicals' launches the 2016 season. When Strawberry Hill House re-opens its doors on 1<sup>st</sup> March, visitors can enjoy a new exhibition: **Collector's Collection: Dr Shirley Sherwood selects Botanical Art**. This exhibition brings artworks from the world famous collection of Dr Shirley Sherwood OBE to Strawberry Hill. Described by the BBC as a "driving force behind a revival of interest in botanical art", Dr Sherwood has chosen drawings and paintings of plants which Horace Walpole would have seen in the fashionable gardens of his time. In addition to the exhibition, Strawberry Hill has curated a programme of events inspired by botanicals and the garden where participants can listen, learn, draw, taste and plant all thing botanical. For further information please visit the web-site <http://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/>

### And next year:

In 2017 Strawberry Hill will celebrate the tercentenary of the birth of Horace Walpole. A major exhibition, 'Strawberry Hill Restored' will, for the first time, bring together Walpole's original collection, painstakingly gathered from private & public collections across the UK and overseas. This will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to see Strawberry Hill House as it was originally conceived. On display will be many important artworks from private collections and overseas. Make a note!

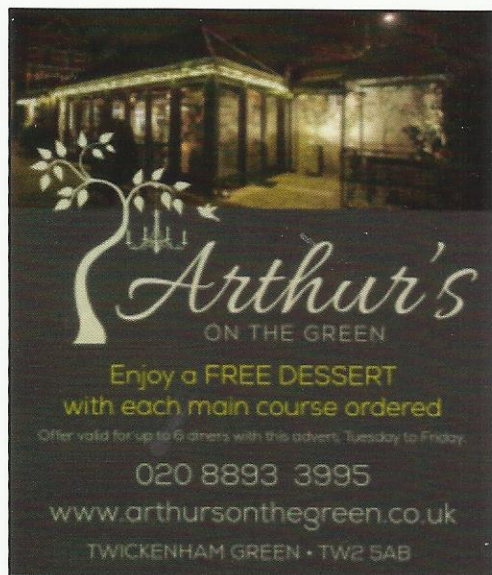
## Happy Birthday, Mr Pope!

Alexander Pope was born on 21 May 1688, and died at his villa in Strawberry Hill on 30 May 1744. As we have reported before, the Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust is committed to the restoration of the Grotto – the only surviving part of his villa and garden. As part of the fundraising programme for the restoration, a second symposium will be held on his birthday, 21 May, at Radnor House School, the site of the Grotto.

The symposium is entitled 'The proper study of Mankind is Man': a symposium for Alexander Pope's birthday, and attendees will hear from eminent speakers in the fields of gardening and literature; they will be offered a visit to the Grotto; they will hear about future steps in the restoration; and they will be provided with a light lunch and coffee. All this for only £20! (Students £15. All proceeds to the restoration).

To sign up for this event (and numbers are restricted), go to

[www.popesymposium.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.popesymposium.eventbrite.co.uk)



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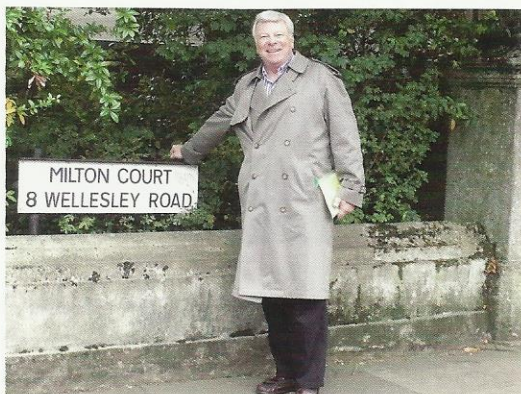


## Previous Residents

Here we feature a previous resident of Strawberry Hill. If you have any stories of interesting people who were born in or who have lived in Strawberry Hill, please contact SHRA via the website. **Novelist and screenwriter Ian Feldman visits his place of birth in Strawberry Hill**

In October 2015, Ian Feldman contacted SHRA to ask for information about his birthplace. His mother had told him he was born in Strawberry Hill. Thanks to 'Strawberry Hill – A History of the Neighbourhood' by Anthony Beckles Wilson, we managed to

track down the original site of the Alexandra Nursing Home – now Milton Court in Wellesley Road. Ian met a committee member and wandered around the area of his birth, talking of memories of his mother and grandmother.



*Ian outside Milton Court*



*Ian's Grandmother*

His background as an officer in the US Army's Military Police during the Vietnam era, his British Grandmother's tales as a double agent for Scotland Yard imbedded within the German Abwehr from the 1930's and her diaries after the war, have inspired Ian's passion for the intrigue of Europe and the history of the Second World War.

Born in Strawberry Hill, in the remains of the bombed out Alexandra Nursing Home just after VE Day, Ian has always maintained connections to his homeland of birth and been influenced by the amazing

stories of sacrifice and heroism by the Allies during the war against Nazi Germany.

Ian's first novel 'The Sky Club' is an historical fiction that crosses the globe. It begins in his adopted hometown in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina and involves a mysterious chateau that still exists to this day and has beginnings from the shadow years before the Second World War. The powerful and visual historical novel, 'Rendezvous in Majorca', is a Cold War sequel (based in part on his Nana's Diaries) followed by the dark and ominous work, 'Har Megiddon', the final element in this trilogy of historical novels from his Grandmother's past.

Currently Ian's spec screenplay, 'The Blue Wall', a blend of WWII history, a sunken Nazi U-Boat and events from the holocaust all merged into a modern thriller, has become Feldman's latest obsession with writing. He has also developed several other screenplays, some based on his novels, historical events and creative concepts he develops every day.

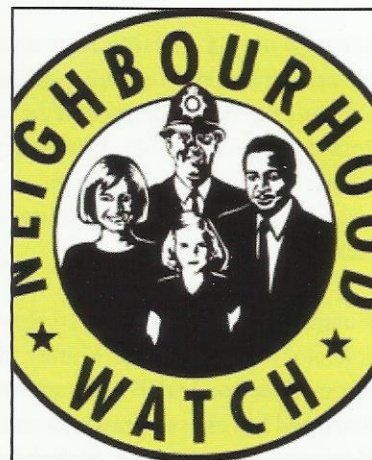
Ian is a Military Historian, dedicated Fiction Writer and erstwhile Catamaran Sailor of the Caribbean Sea. He currently lives with his wife in the mountains of North Georgia, USA.

TWITTER: @ianfeldmanusa

## Neighbourhood Watch in Strawberry Hill

**Charles Owens, Co-Chair of the Safer Neighbourhood Board, provides an update on Neighbourhood Watch**

There are approximately 600 neighbourhood watches on Richmond Borough. Unfortunately there are large gaps in the coverage of the Strawberry Hill Residents' Association area. Being part of a neighbourhood watch has several advantages, including: receipt of information from police via a designated coordinator; potential savings on house insurance; and reduced likelihood of being burgled, amongst others.



A recent study, which involved interviewing burglars, showed that the presence of Neighbourhood Watch signs in an area and in the windows of houses and flats is a deterrent as they felt more likely to be spotted and caught.

I have been coordinating the Watch for Fortescue Park for several years and have been able to form a good relationship with our Police Safer Neighbourhood Team. Information passed to them has led to several arrests and may have contributed to the historically low levels of crime in this area as well as assisting the police to target areas suffering from anti-social behaviour.

Being a coordinator is rewarding and does not require a lot of effort, especially once up and running. Twickenham Police are currently appointing designated officers to promote Neighbourhood Watch and act as points of contact for coordinators. If you are interested in starting one, contacting the South Twickenham Safer Neighbourhood Team would be a good place to start. ([SouthTwickenham.SNT@met.police.uk](mailto:SouthTwickenham.SNT@met.police.uk) or 020 8721 2910)

It would be great to see Neighbourhood Watches across the SHRA area and it is encouraging to see a new one being coordinated by Harish Patel for the stretch of Wellesley Road that goes from Milton Court to Strawberry Hill BR Station.

**Although open to all local residents, neighbourhood watch coordinators are especially welcome at the South Twickenham Police Liaison Group meetings. The next meeting will be held on 21 March at 7.00pm in the new church hall at St James (round the back of the church) and will also be the AGM.**

An advertisement for The St Mary's Clinic. It features a photograph of a man in a blue t-shirt and black shorts running. The text on the left lists services: 'Physiotherapy', 'Sports Massage', 'Physiology testing', 'Gait analysis', and 'And much more...'. The top right corner has the logo for 'St Mary's University Twickenham London'. The bottom left contains the clinic's name 'The St Mary's Clinic', address 'St Mary's University, Waldegrave Road, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham TW1 4SX', phone number '+44 (0)20 8240 4070', email 'clinic@stmarys.ac.uk', and website 'www.stmarys.ac.uk/clinic'. The bottom right shows social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, along with the handles '@TheStMarysClinic' and 'TheStMarysClinicLondon'.



## Considerate Construction in the Neighbourhood

Given the current state of the housing market, many of us are having renovations done to our homes. The Considerate Construction Scheme (<https://www.ccscheme.org.uk/affected-by-works>) provides some useful advice for ways in which builders can keep neighbours on side during works. Some of the aspects of the Scheme are relevant to renovation work in narrow suburban streets like ours. More than anything, neighbours like to be kept informed, particularly about deliveries in large vehicles, excessive noise and dust, and impacts on parking. The Safer Neighbourhood Team have also been chasing fly-tippers, so it's a good idea to ensure rubbish is disposed of legally.

### This is the complete Scheme:

#### Care about Appearance

Constructors should ensure sites appear professional and well managed  
Ensuring that the external appearance of sites enhances the image of the industry.  
Being organised, clean and tidy.  
Enhancing the appearance of facilities, stored materials, vehicles and plant.  
Raising the image of the workforce by their appearance.

#### Respect the Community

Constructors should give utmost consideration to their impact on neighbours and the public  
Informing, respecting and showing courtesy to those affected by the work.  
Minimising the impact of deliveries, parking and work on the public highway.  
Contributing to and supporting the local community and economy.  
Working to create a positive and enduring impression, and promoting the Code.

#### Protect the Environment

Constructors should protect and enhance the environment  
Identifying, managing and promoting environmental issues.

Seeking sustainable solutions, and minimising waste, the carbon footprint and resources.

Minimising the impact of vibration, and air, light and noise pollution.

Protecting the ecology, the landscape, wildlife, vegetation and water courses.

#### Secure everyone's Safety

Having systems that care for the safety of the public, visitors and the workforce.

Minimising security risks to neighbours.

Having initiatives for continuous safety improvement.

Embedding attitudes and behaviours that enhance safety performance.

#### Value their Workforce

Constructors should provide a supportive and caring working environment

Providing a workplace where everyone is respected, treated fairly, encouraged and supported.

Identifying personal development needs and promoting training.

Caring for the health and wellbeing of the workforce.

Providing and maintaining high standards of welfare.

## Twickenham Alive Film Festival

The Twickenham Alive Film Festival is now in its fourth year. Over the years its popularity has increased and gone from strength to strength, encouraging local filmmakers of all ages and delighting audiences.

Themes can be fairly open such as Where I Live and categories include animation, travel, sport, drama and comedy. We also have an international category which is always well represented.

A selection of films submitted in the last three years can be viewed on the film festival website: <http://www.twickenhamfilmfestival.com>

If you have a short film, (maximum time 10 minutes) or would like to make one for the Film Festival please register your interest at [film@twickenhamalive.com](mailto:film@twickenhamalive.com). We hope to see Strawberry Hill films alongside those from the borough's other Villages and from countries such as Italy, the USA and China. Also let us know if you would like to receive details of this year's Screening and Awards.



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The logo for Strawberry Hill Golf Club, featuring a stylized 'S' and 'H' inside a shield.

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## Hunt for Heroes

**Committee vice-chair Peter Lamb continues his investigation into Strawberry Hill in the First World War**

Our centenary commemoration of the Great War now takes us back to beginning of 1916 when the rate of attrition in the fields of battle had reached terrible proportions. The need for more recruits had become so acute that the authorities introduced compulsory conscription. The Military Service Bill came into effect in February 1916 declaring that by law all single men aged 18-41 had to enlist.

Applications for exemption or objection were made extremely difficult, and those who were prepared to undergo the painful process were treated more or less as outlaws. Later on in the year, in May, conscription was extended to married men and with this the country had well and truly set itself in a state of total war. 1916 was to prove even bloodier than the previous two years. The Battles of the Somme and Verdun were to claim lives on a scale never seen before in warfare. In searching through the 1911 census for our area and matching names with military records I have tried to identify former residents who became embroiled in this dreadful period in our history. My most recent discovery is a local with the rather grand name of Bertie Athelston Nesbitt Kemp. Born in Wandsworth in 1886, he was living at 34 Bonser Road at the time of the Great War. In fact he lived at this same address until his death in 1940. Bertie Kemp served in 15<sup>th</sup> Labour Battalion of the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment. The battalion was formed at Crawley in the summer of 1916 and was sent out to the Western Front in September of that year. I

have no details of his initial service, but his records accord with the fact that the battalion was transferred to the 97<sup>th</sup> Company of the

Labour Corps in June 1917. The Labour Corps were formed early in 1917 and were made up largely of men that had been in the front line and been either wounded or taken ill and could not be returned to the front. This may well have been the



*The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment cap badge depicting a lamb with a flag, This earned them the nickname of the "Mutton Lancers".*

case with Bertie Kemp.

The Corps performed the many functions necessary to support those in a combat role, such as taking equipment to the front, repairing roads, clearing debris. As they were not directly involved in the fighting, they were sometimes treated as a second class organisation but this was unfair as their work was often dangerous. They could be deployed for lengthy periods within the range of enemy guns, and a substantial casualty rate shows that they certainly did not have a cushy number. By the end of the war around 400,000 men were serving in the Labour Corps, and in March and April 1918 when the Western Front almost gave way to a German push, they were used as emergency infantry.

Bertie Kemp can be regarded as a long-standing resident of Strawberry Hill. The house in Bonser Road was a family home from some time before 1911. In that year he was living with his father, Frederick Nesbitt Kemp, an architect and surveyor, his mother, and two sisters. His profession is given as builder's clerk. I've tried to piece together a little of his fortunes after the war. It would

appear that he never married, but continued living at Bonser Road with his father, who died in 1939 aged 93. The following year Bertie died too, leaving effects amounting to £325. 17s. 5d. to his two sisters, who were also unmarried.

I have found our "hero" in several public member family trees on Ancestry.com and have contacted the owners. I may thereby get some more information to throw light on this local hero who lived for such a long time in Strawberry Hill.

### The Committee Officers

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