

Islington U3A Midsummer Day Outing to Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham,

24th June 2019

We are inviting you to a day out at Strawberry Hill House. The trip will cost £21 and is payable in advance by the 14th May.

Strawberry Hill House was built from 1749 by the Thames by Horace Walpole in the influential neo-Gothic Revival architectural style. Twickenham and this part of the Thames were fashionable in the mid-18th century; Walpole bought two cottages which he gradually converted externally and internally in designs based on medieval Gothic battlements, cathedrals, vaulting, tombs and windows.

The garden was fashioned as a natural landscape overlooking the river, unlike the contemporary fashion for formal gardens in the French or Italian manner.



Today the house and garden are surrounded by roads and later houses. Strawberry Hill House became a training college, now St Mary's University. Walpole's house and garden were extensively restored recently, reopening for visitors in 2010.

We have booked two guided tours on Monday 24th June: a garden tour in the late morning, followed by a house tour after lunch. The café offers mid-morning

coffee, lunch and tea. The cost of the day excluding refreshments is £21, payable in advance through iU3A.

Members will meet at Strawberry Hill House. There are two travel routes: Overground to Richmond and bus, or by Southern Region train from Waterloo to Strawberry Hill station. Both routes are covered by the Freedom Pass. Full details, train times and booking forms will be available after Easter.

Strawberry Hill has a lift giving access to the majority of first floor rooms, although the Library and second floor rooms are not accessible to wheelchair users. The landscape walk is not suitable for wheelchair users.

Some iU3A members have already visited Strawberry Hill, and this outing is offered as an opportunity for the wider membership to visit a fascinating and unusual house and garden in a part of London which may not be familiar to many members. We would hope that Midsummer Day would give us good weather.

This Outing will be led by Cressida Jupp and David McPhail.