



STRAWBERRY HILL House & Garden

Strawberry Hill, 268 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, TW1 4ST
Tel: 00 44 (0) 20 8744 1241
strawberryhillhouse.org.uk

Write to Horace

www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/letters

Information for Schools



Inspired by Horace Walpole's writings, we are inviting you to 'Write to Horace' about how your community has come together to make a difference during the lockdown. Your letters will then be displayed as part of an imaginative art installation at the House later this year

Strawberry Hill House

Strawberry Hill House, in Twickenham, was built by Horace Walpole in the 1700s. At the time, Twickenham was a quiet, rural area and he could enjoy a view of the Thames from his beautiful gardens. With the help of his friends, Horace built a completely unique house, the likes of which had never been seen before and he gathered an amazing collection of art and books to put in it. From the very beginning, he opened the House to visitors – welcoming them himself if they were suitably important, or via tours given by his Housekeeper. The House still stands today and looks like a magnificent white castle nestling at the edge of London.

Horace Walpole's Letters

Horace Walpole has been nick-named 'Man of Letters'. He started writing letters at the age of 7 and carried on with this passion into his 70's. During his lifetime it is said that we wrote around 7,000 of them about the people he met, his local community, his thoughts and opinions and the parties he attended. He was also a bit of a gossip! Strawberry Hill House also inspired him to write the world's first Gothic novel, called 'The Castle of Otranto', inspired by a nightmare he experienced while staying there.



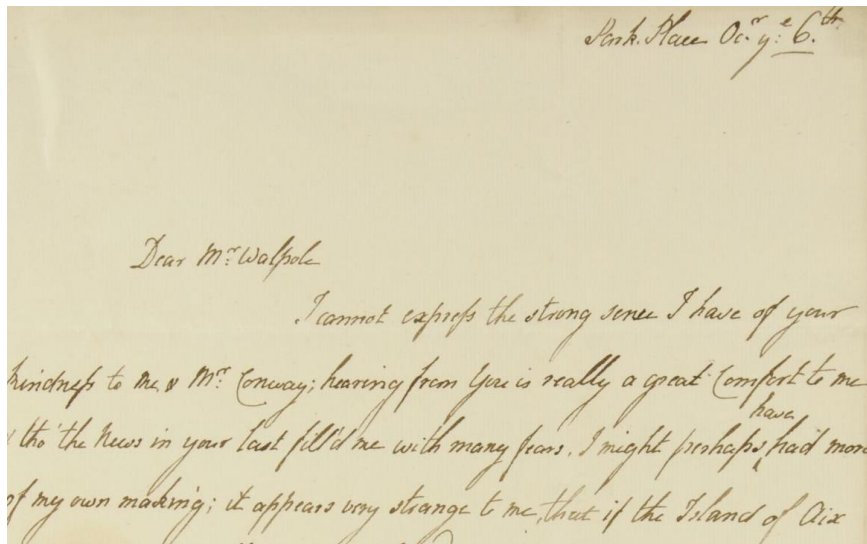
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The Project

During this time, letter-writing feels more relevant than ever as people try to keep in touch with one another and the humble letter has more meaning than it might have done six months ago. Therefore, we are inviting people to 'write to Horace' to tell us how their community has come together during the past few months. This can be in written form, or via a drawing if people prefer. We then hope to use all the letters in an art installation within the House for people to see we able to open again.

For more information see: www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/letters



Possible Topics

Horace liked to write about views of his house and garden, things going on in his community and general comments about life and people around him. In this spirit, we are suggesting that people 'Write to Horace' within one of the following themes:

- **Describing acts of kindness that they have experienced within their community** or shown to their local community. This might be through looking after older people, donating to a food bank, checking on neighbours who might be isolated, for example.
- **Things that they have noticed about the natural environment** while on walks nearby. Maybe the birds are singing that bit louder, maybe there seem to be more deer in the park or the rustling of the trees is that bit more obvious.
- **Observations of life around them.** Maybe there is a landmark or something of interest in their area that they have not noticed before, but have had time to notice during this time at home; perhaps there is something at home that has taken on a new significance. Or maybe there are people in the community who they had never noticed before who they want to help.



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How to submit

- In the spirit of Walpole, we are asking for handwritten letters or drawings/artistic responses, or two sides maximum.
- We would then like you to take a photograph of the letter and email it to letters@strawberryhillhouse.org.uk
- Letters should be addressed 'Dear Horace' with a date and name of school at the top, but please do not put your home address or surname in the letter. You can include your first name and age (age is optional). Please use the format below if it is useful.
- It is intended that all letters will be used for the purpose of displaying in an installation, some extracts may also be used by us for social media and on our website (Only first names and ages will be included).
- Letters cannot be returned and, by submitting, people are agreeing to participate in the project and to having their letters displayed.

Suggested format

Name of School

Horace Walpole
Strawberry Hill House
Twickenham

DATE

Dear Horace,

YOUR LETTER OR DRAWING

Then please sign off your letter with your first name (NO surnames or home addresses) and age (optional).
