

HERITAGE of LONDON TRUST

NEWSLETTER: Summer 2009

News from the Office

On May 5th we again hosted, with English Heritage, a special conference for the borough conservation officers and preservation societies at Westminster City Hall. This annual event is an opportunity for HOLT to keep the London boroughs abreast of our projects and for English Heritage to keep everyone aware of major issues or new policies affecting London's heritage, from the impact of tall buildings on London's world heritage sites to the Olympics.

Most of all, the conference gives us a chance to meet one another and learn how we can work more effectively together. Our guest speaker was Munira Mirza, Mayor Boris Johnson's Director of Policy, Adviser for Arts and Culture. She gave a positive speech and assured us that City Hall values our work and intends to support and promote London's unique heritage in new ways. One of these new initiatives is the Mayor's Story of London Cultural Festival held throughout June – they hope this will be an annual event. Working with the Pevsner Architectural Guides, HOLT arranged a series of guided walks in East London on June 6-7th as part of the festival.

I was so pleased to talk to some of you on the walks, as well as meet new people who would not have known of our work but for the festival. Pam, Tara and I feel enormously encouraged by your enthusiastic support. We will celebrate our 30th anniversary next year, and are planning a grand reception with our royal patron at St James's Palace on March 16th, 2010. We hope to send you further details before the end of the year!

Diana Beattie, June 2009

Soyer Monument Unveiled!

After many years of effort to raise funds, the newly restored Soyer Monument was finally

unveiled before a large crowd of well-wishers on March 30th, 2009. Under a bright blue sky, celebrity and Michelin-starred chef Raymond Blanc gave a speech celebrating the extraordinary life of Alexis Soyer, London's first celebrity chef, who helped feed troops during the Crimean War. The Army Logistical Corps have recently named their new catering school after Soyer in honour of his great work on behalf of the British Army.

Over the years the sculptures suffered damage from pollution and breakages – cherubs' limbs and fingers had to be re-carved and replaced. The monument has now been beautifully restored. Money was raised by the Reform Club, with assistance from the Heritage of London Trust.



The Army Logistical Corps lay a wreath at the unveiling ceremony

After Raymond Blanc, there were further speeches from representatives of the Reform Club, Army Catering Corps, and Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery. A wreath was laid and an Army bugler played a salute. Afterwards, guests decamped to the stunning library of the Reform Club in Pall Mall for drinks and canapés. Thanks must be given to HOLT friend and Reform Club member Nicholas Mellersh, who worked tirelessly to see the monument restored and organised the unveiling. We do hope this monument will be enjoyed by all those who visit the Victorian splendour of Kensal Green, and will inspire people to take a fresh interest in their local cemeteries and monuments.

Society of Friends & Events

We are very keen for you to see where your membership fees are spent; so on March 16th a large group attended Jeremy Ashbee of English Heritage's lecture on the history of Winchester Palace. Open to the general public as well as Friends, this lecture explained the complex history of the palace and the HOLT funded conservation of the rose window. It was held at St Gabriel's, Warwick Square, a magnificent Victorian church that we are helping with masonry repairs to the tower.



HOLT chairman Bridget Cherry leads a group through Poplar on one the festival walks on June 6th
By far the highlight of the spring events were the Story of London Festival walks on June 6th and 7th – despite the rain showers, people turned out to explore the history of Bow, Mile End, West Ham, Bethnal Green and Poplar, and uncovered church memorials, communist meeting places, post-war architecture and even the gate of a West End mansion, now incorporated into an East End community centre. If you did not receive your trail maps in the post, they are available to download from our website, so you can take a wander whenever you wish.

Come and cheer on our runners in the Asics 10k run, passing Piccadilly and St James's Palace, on Sunday July 12th. Don't forget to renew your membership – forms were sent out in January. Contact us if you didn't get one. The office will be closed August 3-7th for summer holidays. On September 16th we begin our Autumn events, with a walk from Shadwell to Wapping via St George in the East and Tobacco Dock. Details of forthcoming events will be available from July on the website or from the office.

Tara Draper-Stumm, June 2009

Projects Offered Grants: May 2009

At our Trustees meeting on May 19th, 2009, 10 new projects were approved for grants totalling over £30,000.

Princes Regeneration Trust - Book

The Princes Regeneration Trust are producing a book *Sustainable Listed Buildings: A Practical Guide to Improving Environmental Sustainability of Listed Buildings*. It will offer community groups and charities useful help with their restoration projects, including understanding statutory planning regulations, sources of funding, suppliers, and reducing energy demand. As this will be a useful tool for the projects we support, and will encourage the "recycling" of historic buildings for community use, the Trust is backing the publication with a grant of £1,000.

St Nicholas Church, Chiswick.

Monument to William Hogarth. Grade II

HOLT gave a grant of £2,500 in 1991 for historic monuments in the churchyard and £2,500 in 2001 for the Challoner monument in the church. Hogarth's tomb is in the churchyard near the south porch – he and his

wife lived in Chiswick from 1749 until his death in 1764.

The Portland stone monument, with inset marble inscribed panels and urn, was set up in 1771. His wife, Jane, was also interred here in 1789. The inscriptions are of historic interest,

especially the epitaph, which

was composed by Hogarth's good friend, the actor David Garrick. The monument has not been cleaned or repaired since the 1950s.

The plinth is damaged, perhaps by tree-root growth, and needs to be stabilised. There are also cracks on the urn's base and rust on the railings. Holden Conservation will undertake the repairs. The work is expected to cost £11,385. The Old Chiswick Protection Society has offered £2,000 and the Friends of St Nicholas Church £5,000. The Trust has offered £2,000 towards this project.



The Memorial to Music Hall performers, Streatham Park Cemetery, Rowan Road, Streatham Vale. Merton. 1924, Unlisted

The Music Hall Guild of Great Britain and America have just won a grant of £50,000 from the HLF to restore this memorial in Streatham Park Cemetery, in honour of the



300 Music Hall and Variety Hall performers, comedians and dancers buried here. The project, called *Music Hall Treasured*,

involves restoring the large memorial stone laid by the Variety Artistes Benevolent Fund and creating access via a new memorial garden. Information on the performers buried here will go on display in a redundant chapel, which will become a permanent exhibition centre. An online database will honour the wonderful contribution these performers made to our cultural history. The total cost of the project is £55,000, so £5,000 still needs to be raised. The cleaning of the memorial, replacing some of the lead lettering and repairing a crack, will cost £2,000. The Trust have therefore offered a grant of £2,000 to cover this.

St Augustine's of Canterbury, Queens Gate, Kensington & Chelsea. 1870-7 by William Butterfield. Grade II*

The church was founded in 1865 by Reverend Chope of Holy Trinity Brompton, who offered Anglo-catholic high church services from an iron shed in his back garden. In 1869 a site was purchased for a new church. St Augustine's was the last major church built by Butterfield in London and is an enormous building, of polychromatic brick, with an impressive towered entrance. Volunteers help to ensure the building is open for both worshippers and tourists. There are two adjoining halls, one used for a playgroup and another let to the local school. The church also hosts concerts. An inspection in May



2008 flagged up serious problems with the roof, guttering, and erosion to exterior stone and brickwork. The north section of the roof will need to be entirely replaced and is to be part of the first phase of works. English Heritage (with HLF) are supporting this project with a grant of £94,000 towards the total costs of £234,000. The church has £61,000. As this is such an important church, the Trust has offered £4,000 towards this.

St. Thomas's Church, St. Thomas Road, Finsbury Park, Islington. 1889 by Ewan Christian with WD Caroe

The Trust has helped this church twice - with a grant of £1,500 in 1999 and another of £3,000 in 2006.

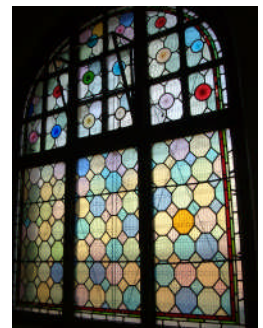


English Heritage have supported the restoration of this church at each phase. They are now embarking on the

third and final stage of the roof renewal- this will include the roofs at the west end, the baptistery, narthex, Sunday School and two entrance porches. This is estimated to cost £70,000 (plus VAT and fees) and EH/HLF have offered £9,000 towards this. The church has raised £15,000. The Trust has offered a grant of £1,250 towards restoring the decorative feature on the baptistery roof as well as repairs and redecorations to the lantern of the Sunday School.

Rothbury Hall, Azof Street, Greenwich. 1893 by W.T. Hollands. Grade II

This building is an ex-Congregational Mission Hall, close to the O2 Dome, now in use by Emergency Exit Arts, a street performance group which embraces young people and performs at events sponsored by the Mayor of London. Greenwich has asked the group if they would like to purchase the hall. The building has some important stained glass and spacious main hall with interesting plaster filigree work. The purchase price is estimated at £350,000.



Phase 1 of the restoration will make the building sound and restore the stained glass windows – this is expected to cost £150,000, with the windows costing £9,000. The Development Trust Association, Greenwich Council and the Arts Council are all very keen on the project and hope the building will be workable in time for the Olympics. To ensure Phase 1 is a success, the Trust has offered £4,000 towards the window restoration.

St Mary Magdalene, Addiscombe, Croydon. 1868. Grade II*



HOLT had helped this church twice before in 1992 (£5,000) and 2001 (£2,000) for stonework cleaning. The church has a fine tower with elegant detailing which was begun with the church in 1868 but was not completed until the 1930s. The present work

entails re-roofing the tower and repairs to the Kentish Ragstone. The work is expected to cost £177,241, and the church has received a grant of £77,000 from English Heritage. They have accumulated a further £22,000 through fundraising. As this is such an interesting church, the Trust has offered £2,000 towards the work.

Nightwatchman’s Hut, Terrace Gardens, Richmond. 1887. Grade II

This park has undergone extensive restoration work in the past 2 years, and will be re-opened in July – many years ago the Trust aided the conservation of a statue of a River God here.



This Anglo-Japanese style hut may originally have been used for deck chairs – it may again be used for this, or possibly for ice cream and refreshments. It has rare zinc roof tiles and its glazing bars have been likened to work by Thomas Jekyll (1827-81). Restoring the hut will cost £6,000. The Trust

has given a grant of £1,500, with the remainder to be paid by Richmond Council.

Former Clare College Mission Church, Dilston Grove, Southwark. 1900 /1911-12 by JW Simpson and Maxwell Ayrton. Grade II



This former church is one of the earliest reinforced concrete churches in London. The building was converted to artists’ studios in the 1960s, but had become derelict and was

entered onto the English heritage Buildings at Risk register. It has now been taken over by the Bermondsey Artists Group, who plan to restore it for use as an art gallery, studio and educational space. They have secured £392,000 from the Big Lottery Fund, and a further £200,000 from English Heritage and the Borough of Southwark. One of the first projects to be tackled is a course of red tiles on the façade, which have begun to fall away – their repair is expected to cost £17,000. The Trust has offered a grant of £4,000 towards this part of the restoration.

Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, Richmond. 1749-90 by Horace Walpole, John Chute and Richard Bentley. Grade I

This famous gothic villa was designed by Horace Walpole and associates, who called themselves the “Committee of Taste” – they took inspiration from a variety of sources, including Henry VII’s chapel in Westminster Abbey, to create one of Britain’s most iconic and eclectic buildings. It is on English Heritage’s Buildings at Risk Register, and is now in the care of the Strawberry Hill Trust, founded in 2002 to oversee restoration. The work is expected to cost £8.9 million and is due to be completed in summer 2010. The repair of the 19th century weathervane on the Beauclerk tower is one of the minor works to be undertaken – we have given a grant of £5,500 to cover its repair and re-gilding.

