



HERITAGE *of* LONDON TRUST

NEWSLETTER: Summer 2008

News from the Office

We've had a busy spring, with what seems like an exhausting upsurge in restoration projects applying for grants. At the January meeting our trustees considered 13 new projects and offered grants worth a total of £47,000. In May we received 12 new project applications and agreed new grants totalling £66,500. We have already received at least 6 new applications for the next meeting in October, so 2008 is looking to be our busiest year. To keep up with this increasing work load and to ensure the fundraising continues apace, Tara has begun working an extra day per week, and will be in the office Monday thru Thursday. Please feel free to contact her if you have any suggestions for future Friends visits or fundraising ideas.

The May projects included £25,000 allocated to a new joint scheme with English Heritage, which will offer small grants for cleaning and repairs to local monuments, memorials and sculptures. English heritage have also pledged £25,000 to this scheme, which will be officially launched in the autumn.

Completed Projects

Blackburn Pavilion, London Zoo



Trust Director Diana Beattie hands over a cheque for £5,000 to Emily Sheath of London Zoo in front of the new Crittal windows. Photo © ZSL.

On Thursday March 20th Diana and Tara attended the re-opening of the Tropical Birdhouse at London Zoo. Renamed the Blackburn Pavilion in honour of major

benefactors the Blackburn family, the re-opening was the culmination of a £2.38 million investment project to restore one of the oldest surviving buildings at London Zoo. The fine red brick and sandstone building was originally the world's first purpose-built reptile house. It was built to the designs of Charles Brown Trollope in 1882-3 – only 3 Victorian buildings still survive at the zoo. The reptile house was converted to an aviary in 1927-8 and many of the windows were blocked up or lost to make way for additional aviaries added on the outside.



Two of the Blackburn Pavilion's new tenants tuck into some grubs at the opening. Photo © ZSL.

The original pitched glass and iron roof carried on stylized columns survived the many phases of alteration and has now been beautifully restored. This elegant and lofty space has been transformed into a tropical habitat with a waterfall, pools and exotic plants, through which the birds can fly freely. Visitors can also enjoy this open space, walking through the middle of the complex as the birds swoop above their heads – it is one of the Zoo's most amazing attractions and will offer visitors a new appreciation of some of the world's most brightly plumed and endangered species.

The Trust gave a grant of £5,000 towards the re-instatement of the Crittal windows along the main façade. This donation was given in memory of our late Trustee Kevin Gardner, who was a life-long fellow of the Zoological Society of London. We were very honoured that Kevin's daughters and widow, Baroness Gardner of Parkes, were able to attend the re-opening ceremony. We all sincerely hope

that the Pavilion will not only offer the birds a much happier home but will also assist ornithologists in their efforts to save endangered species.

Cyclists & Runners

On Saturday, May 24th Trust friends Liz Harwood and Robin Key finally set off on their epic cycle journey from Land's End to John O'Groats. Tara and her husband Edward went down to Cornwall to wave them off on what was a damp, drizzly and windy evening.



Liz celebrates when they finally make it to John O'Groats! Photo © Robin Key and Liz Harwood

The weather did get better, and according to Liz they had “4 magical weeks, exploring the length of our beautiful island....after cycling nearly 1200 miles, we freewheeled down into John O'Groats, past orchids at the roadside and with magnificent views of the Orkney Islands across Pentland Firth”. After reaching John O'Groats on Saturday June 21st, Liz and Robin cycled another 300 miles around the Orkneys just for fun! They have now returned to London, and are still receiving cheques from well-wishers – at last count they had raised over £11,255 for HOLT projects! We are so very pleased that Liz and Robin had such a wonderful time on the cycle and we are extremely grateful to them for raising so much money for the trust.

Liz and Robin weren't the only ones pushing their muscles to the limit this summer to raise money for the Trust – on Sunday July 6th, friends and family took part in the Asics 10K London run. HOLT friends Patricia Williams, Janet Thomson, Jessica Beattie and Edward Draper-Stumm, as well as

English Heritage colleagues Paddy Pugh and Susie Barson, ran through sun and rain along a route that stretched from Hyde Park Corner to the City and back to Whitehall – along the way they passed The Ritz, St James's Palace, the Embankment and Big Ben.



Left to Right: Janet, Jessie & Patricia wait to start the race. Photo © Geoffrey Dadd

All our runners completed the course in good time, ranging from about 40 minutes to 70 minutes – an impressive accomplishment when you consider that they had to jostle for position with 23,000 other participants! Well done and a big thanks to all our runners, who together raised over £1,000 for the Trust.

Society of Friends & Events

Don't forget to come along to the East London Heritage Trails on Saturday and Sunday September 13th-14th. Trustee Bridget Cherry, Diana and Tara have been working closely with Tower Hamlets to produce an impressive trail guide for this event – this booklet includes information on buildings that will be open to view, self-guided walking trails, maps and histories for each area along the trails. The trail guide is free, and every Friend will receive a copy in the post – extra copies will be available by sending a SAE to the office, or from libraries and cultural venues across London.

A new series of Friends events will begin in the autumn. These include a coach trip to visit HOLT projects on Tuesday October 21st, and an evening at the Houses of Parliament on Thursday October 30th. Details can be found on the Friends events form or on our website, www.heritageoflondon.com.

Tara Draper-Stumm, August 2008