



HERITAGE of LONDON TRUST

NEWSLETTER: Autumn 2010

News from the Office

On September 22nd, HoLT Trustee Roger Bright, CEO of the Crown Estate, joined Diana and Tara for visits in East London to view some of our most urgent projects. Our first stop was Downs Baptist Church in Hackney Downs, where Roger met Rev. Samuel Ghann – the vicar has been galvanizing the local community and the church now offers various community support projects, from computer classes to breakfast clubs for children and a homeless shelter in the winter.



Roger Bright hands a cheque to Rev. Samuel Ghann, watched by (left to right) Tony Nelson of EJ Roberts Roofing, Dan Martin of Tuffin Ferraby Taylor, Diana Beattie and Emerson Bennet of EJ Roberts Roofing

The restoration of this stunning Neo-Romanesque church, costing over £200,000, is nearly complete, and Roger was able to hand over a cheque for £5,000 towards the restoration of the rose window and iron crosses on the roof line – this project received press coverage in the *Hackney Gazette*. We are thankful that Roger was able to accompany us and learn more about our work.

Bridget Cherry has stepped down as Chairman after 2 years of service. Bridget has been a great asset to HoLT over the years, helping to write the *East London Heritage Trails Guide* in 2008. Bridget will stay on as a Vice-President. Long-standing HoLT Trustee Ronnie Barden has succeeded as Chairman – we hope he will enjoy his tenure!

On October 13th HoLT hosted a luncheon at the House of Commons for London's top executives, mainly from London's building/property industry.

HoLT Trustee Ed Vaizey, Minister for Culture, Communications & Creative Industries and his colleague John Penrose, Minister for Tourism and Heritage, both attended the lunch, and each gave a speech praising HoLT for its ability to achieve so much with limited resources.



*HoLT Trustee Dudley Fishburn thanks the guests
Photo courtesy of Viscount Gough*

We hope that this lunch will encourage London's major businesses and heritage sector to work more closely together to ensure that culture and heritage continue to be key linchpins in regeneration schemes across the capital.

Tara Draper-Stumm, October 2010

Society of Friends & Events

On September 6th HoLT hosted a special concert at St Gabriel's Church, Warwick Square. This event was sponsored by Peter Jones Dept Store, and our patron, HRH The Duke of Gloucester attended.



*Guests enjoy a glass of wine during the interval
Photo courtesy of Mr Hugh Beattie*

The theme of the evening was music inspired by London, and HoLT friend and conductor Rupert Bond offered an interesting programme of new and old that fascinated the large audience. The event raised over £1,600.

Tickets are still available for Will Palin's lecture on November 10th, but the visit to Strawberry Hill on November 23rd is now full. Details of new events will be sent to you in the New Year!

Projects Offered Grants

At the Trustees meeting on October 12, 2010, 14 projects were approved with grants worth £27,330. Details of these projects appear below.

Drinking Fountains, High Street 2012. Tower Hamlets.

These drinking fountains are part of a regeneration scheme along the historic routes between central London and the Olympic Park, initially intended as the marathon route. Over £11 million has been committed to improve historic buildings and



public sculpture in Whitechapel, Mile End Road and Bow Road in a collaboration between Tower Hamlets, London Development Agency, Design for London, Transport for London, English Heritage, Newham

and the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation. The programme will continue despite the change to the marathon route, and HoLT has been asked to assist with the conservation of two drinking fountains in Mile End Road, originally set up by the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain Association in the latter half of the 19th century. Both consist of granite plinths, which have lost their bowls. These will be fully restored to working order, at a cost of £10,000. HoLT has agreed a grant of £5,000, matching a grant by the Pilgrim Trust.

Obelisk, Ha Ha Road, Woolwich Common. Greenwich. 1861. Grade II

This obelisk was set up as a memorial to Robert John Little of the Royal Marines in 1861. According to recent research by Peter Guillery at the Survey of London Robert John Little was a local resident, having lived in Adelaide Place, a group of early 19th century terrace houses on the east side of Woolwich Common. The road where the obelisk stands is



named after a historic ha ha, the remains of which are still visible on Woolwich Common. The obelisk once had copper plates with faucets and basins on all 4 sides, and gun bollard railings, but these are now missing. Greenwich Council is overseeing conservation, which will include removing

vegetation as well as repairing and cleaning stonework. The will cost £1,400, and HoLT has offered a grant to cover this amount.

Stable Yard, Morden Hall Park. Merton. c.1879. Grade II

Morden Hall Park was bequeathed to the National Trust by Mr. Gilliat Hatfield in 1941. The grounds are popular with local people and the National Trust offers education activities, centred at the old snuff mill in the grounds. The Stable Yard has a clock tower with stalls and loose boxes around a central courtyard -

these have been used for storage and car parking since the 1940s. The National Trust is currently planning a £2.5m sustainable building



renovation which centres around the Stable Yard. The ironwork and wood panels of the stalls will be restored, and the space used for local arts and crafts and improved visitor activities. This work will cost approximately £7,500 (roughly £1,000 per stall). HoLT has offered a grant of £1,000 towards one stall.

Pump House Museum, South Access Rd, Walthamstow. Waltham Forest. 1885. Grade II

The pump house, formerly part of the local sewage works, was built in 1885 and contains Marshall "C" Class steam engines (c.1896) -

believed to be the only surviving horizontal steam engines of the "C" class type constructed by William Marshall & Sons. After closing in the 1970s,



volunteers established a small museum, collecting and restoring historic buses, motorcycles, and other industrial materials related to the Lea Valley. It is run entirely by volunteers and is open on a regular basis. They hope to create a modern museum at the old pump house with help from the HLF - there is support for this to become an Olympic legacy project. They are currently restoring the Grade II listed steel roof beams and roof boarding within the pump house - this will cost £5,230.00. HoLT has offered a grant of £2,000 towards restoring the steel roof beams.

University of East London, Romford Road, Stratford. Newham. 1898 Grade II*

Now part of the Stratford campus of the University of East

London, this building was originally founded as a Technical Institute to provide courses in science, art



and engineering for local people. It is stunningly decorated with Portland stone arched pediments with sculptural groups and a sculptural frieze of foliate scrolls and putti representing the various trades taught by the Institute. The sculpture was executed in the Edinburgh workshops of William Birnie Rhind (1853-1933). As the area was home to many chemical factories, the resulting sulphurous atmosphere damaged brickwork and eroded sculptures. The University began a phased programme of conservation in 2009. The first phase of works on the Romford Road façade cost £326,348. They are now working on phases 2 and 3, which will cover the Water Lane and back elevations. This will cost a further £740,570 – conserving a single bay will cost £20,351. This building is a fabulous gem near the Olympic Park, and the Trust has offered a grant of £2,000 towards the conservation of Bay 7 in Water Lane.

Seven Dials Pillar, Mercer Street. Camden.

The area north of Covent Garden, in the vicinity of Neal's Yard, was laid out by Thomas Neal as a series of 6 (later 7) radiating streets in the 1690s.

At the centre a pillar was erected with sun dials at its pinnacle. Designed by Edward Pierce in 1694, the pillar was removed in 1773. A replica of the pillar was re-erected on the site in 1987-9, and HoLT supported the project with a grant of £5,000. The dials have become quite weathered and need to be restored and re-gilded.



The total cost is expected to be £24,400, and the Seven Dials Trust has received a donation of £20,000 from Legal & General. HoLT has agreed a grant of £2,430 which will cover the re-gilding of the sun dials.

88 Dean Street, Soho. Westminster.

In October 2009

HoLT offered a grant of £500 towards a comprehensive study of this rare shopfront, which dates to c.1791. This has been completed, and it is now hoped



that a full conservation of the façade, which will include removing layers of paint and repairing the woodwork, can now proceed. This will cost £3,678. The Trust has offered a further grant of £1,000 towards this.

Sandys Row Synagogue, Sandys Row, Spitalfields. Tower Hamlets. Grade II*

This Ashkenazi synagogue was originally a Huguenot church, built in 1763. It was dedicated as a synagogue in 1868 for Dutch Jewish immigrants. The synagogue retains some of the original Huguenot ironwork and



plasterwork which has been integrated into the synagogue. There are long term plans to create an East End cultural heritage space in the crypt which is

currently used for storage. This would obviously be a wonderful resource linking Jewish heritage to this area of London. They have just been awarded an EH/HLF joint grant of £250,000 for restoring the roof. While this work is taking place they need to take down and restore the Victorian chandeliers and their earlier (Huguenot period) mechanisms, and the metal ceiling roses from which the chandeliers are suspended. They estimate that this will cost £8,000- 9,000. The Trust has offered £2,000, which has been donated by Trustee Jonathan Gestetner.

St James the Less, Thorndyke St, Pimlico. Westminster. 1858-61 by G.E. Street. Grade I

This church was founded by 3 enterprising sisters in memory of their father Bishop Monk. Constructed in a Romanesque style with polychromatic brick and painted decoration, the church was last re-decorated in 1962 and is now in

need of thorough conservation. The congregation are raising £400,000 to restore the building to its former glory by its 150th anniversary. The original pulpit, elaborately carved with saints and scenes from the life of Christ in stone with coloured marble pillars, has suffered from dirt and damage to the delicately carved figures. The cost of cleaning and repairing the carving is expected to be £6,000 and HoLT has agreed a grant of £3,000.



St John the Evangelist, Penge. Bromley. Grade II

This church, built in 1847, was badly re-worked in the 1970s, and fell into disrepair. It is now undergoing a revival, and have been awarded £200,000 from English Heritage to undertake a major remodelling. The building retains some fine Burne-Jones stained glass windows as well as a fine tower clock with Westminster chime by



Thwaites and Reed, dated 1876. There are 3 clock faces on the tower. While in working order, the clock mechanism needs a refurbishment, and they would also like to re-gild and restore the dials. This will cost £15,918 plus VAT – HoLT has agreed a grant of £3,000.

St Paul's Church, Lorrimore Square, Kennington. Southwark. Grade II

This stunning church was built 1959-60 by Woodroffe Buchanan & Coulter to replace the original church which was bombed in the war. Constructed of reinforced concrete in a lattice



pattern with a high pitched copper roof, the interior is beautifully illuminated by stained glass lozenges set into the concrete and embellished with textiles by Gerald Holtom, best known as the designer of the Nuclear Disarmament Logo (CND). The most interesting work is an altar panel depicting Christ and the Apostles as chalices. The panel consists of a variety of fabrics, including velvet, machine appliqué and embroidery - after 50 years it has suffered some minor damage (tears and frays) and staining. There are a further 18 door panels with figures of St Paul and text in a similar condition. The church want to repair and

clean these at a cost of £4,500, and the Trust has agreed a grant of £2,000 for the altar panel.

Croydon Parish Church, Croydon. Grade I

There has been a church on this site since at least 960AD – the present church was rebuilt in a perpendicular style by Sir George Gilbert Scott after fire partly destroyed the medieval church in 1867.



The church has had a long association with the Archbishops of Canterbury, who had a palace adjoining the church, and six Archbishops are buried here. In 2001 the church began a £500,000 scheme to restore the building and renew the roof, and HoLT gave a grant of £4,000 towards repairs to the tower pinnacles. The church is now working on phase II of their renewal scheme and HoLT have agreed a further grant of £500 towards repairs to the stone battlements and decorative carving.

Memorial Baptist Church, Barking Road, Plaistow. Newham. Grade II

This magnificent Byzantine style church was built 1921-2 as the West Ham Central Mission. It is now used by 3 different congregations and hosts various community programmes. HoLT gave a grant of £3,000 towards brickwork repairs in 2007. The church is now continuing work on the east bell tower, which has a magnificent set of bells



inscribed with the names of 169 local men who died in World War I – these were cast by Gillet and Johnston of Croydon in 1925. This company is still in business and will restore the bells,

which is estimated to cost over £15,000. As we have helped this church recently, the Trustees have offered a token grant of £500 towards this.

Eltham Palace, Conduit Head. Greenwich.

English Heritage care for this Tudor Palace, where Henry VIII grew up (now integrated into an art deco house built by the Courtauld family). The Conduit once supplied the palace with running water. The Conduit Head can be seen in the grounds, and its Tudor brickwork is to be restored by English Heritage. In partnership with Greenwich Council they want to set up an interpretation board next to structure so it will be better appreciated. This will cost £2,695- the Trustees have agreed to contribute £1,500 to this panel.