



HERITAGE of LONDON TRUST NEWSLETTER: Autumn 2011

News from the Office

As you may recall from the last issue, the newsletter is being sponsored in 2011-2012 by London MEP Syed Kamall, in support of the work we do. Mr Kamall has also invited HOLT to take part in a special exhibition at the European Parliament in Brussels, May 14-16th 2012. This exhibition theme will be "Best of London" and will highlight the work of charitable organizations that are making a difference in the capital. We hope some of you will be able to make the journey to see the exhibition. Further details will be available in spring 2012.

Some excellent news was recently received from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) by our sister trust HOLT Ops. They have been successful in their application for funding for the restoration of St George's Woolwich and will receive £396,000 from the HLF. Work will soon begin on the protective roof over the apse and should be completed in time for the Olympics, when Woolwich Barracks will host the shooting competition.



Tara with Mr Tim Horsey & Trustee Dr Ann Robey at the Garden Party

Tara and HOLT Trustee Dr Ann Robey represented HOLT at the Royal Garden Party on June 29th. Decked out in some very jolly hats, we enjoyed the sunshine and chatted with our patron, HRH The Duke of Gloucester about our most recent projects. We are very grateful to Miss Jane Meredith and Alistair Wood MBE at Kensington Palace for arranging this for HOLT.

Tara Draper-Stumm, October 2011

Ms Hazel Wood: 1920-2011

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Ms Hazel Wood, a long-time friend and supporter of HOLT, on September 7th. Ms Wood was in the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry in World War II. Following the death of her brothers in the war, she set up a charitable fund in their memory. After the war, she worked for antiques dealer Mallett, and was an early member of the Georgian Group, joining them on trips abroad.



Hazel (right) during a site visit to the Marianne North Gallery in February 2009

She was a friend of our founder William Bell, and supported HOLT's work through her charitable fund, most recently giving grants towards the restoration of the Marianne North Gallery and the statues in the chapel of SS Peter and Paul at the Royal Naval College Greenwich. Hazel often attended Friends events, enlivening the conversations with her enthusiasm for heritage. Ms Wood will be greatly missed.

Completed Projects: Eltham Palace Conduit Head

The moated manor house and parkland at Eltham were acquired by Edward II in 1305. Edward IV added the great hall, which still survives, in the 1470s. During the reign of Henry VII, the palace was used as the royal nursery, and it was here that Henry VIII and his sisters spent much of their childhood – the palace was close enough to the court at

Greenwich for their mother, Queen Elizabeth of York, to ride there frequently to see them.



The Conduit Head before Restoration

Henry VII made various improvements to the palace, and it is thought that he was responsible for building a new water system for the palace, supplying it with fresh spring water via a conduit. Much of the conduit was underground, but about a mile away from the palace is the Eltham Conduit Head. This gave access to a group of underground chambers which filtered the spring water before it made its way down a 55 foot gradient to the palace via wooden or lead pipes.



The Conduit Head after Restoration

The palace went out of use in the 17th century, and after that time the conduit fell into disrepair. Further deterioration happened after June 1944 when a flying bomb fell near the conduit, damaging nearby Holy Trinity Church.

Greenwich Council and English Heritage have recently restored the Conduit Head, which lies along the Green Chain Walk, a 40 mile network of paths in southeast London. As part of the restoration HOLT gave a grant of £1,500 towards the erection of an interpretation board which explains the history of the conduit to passers-by.

It is hoped that not only will this enrich people's enjoyment and understanding of the conduit, but it will also help to discourage vandalism in the future.



The New Interpretation Board

The Heritage of London Trust is pleased to have helped bring this interesting part of Tudor history back to life.

Society of Friends & Events

This summer we've tried to keep you all busy with interesting visits. We had a full coach in June for the special trip to Highgrove, and our colleagues at the London society hosted an enjoyable "pub crawl" of historic pubs in Maida Vale.

My personal favourite was our trip to Fenton House in Hampstead on a sunny morning in mid-September. This is one of the National Trust's few properties in London and is well worth a visit. It holds an interesting collection of paintings, furniture, musical instruments and ceramics. We even enjoyed a rare moment when a music student came to tune a harpsichord and began to play. After our tour we took a lovely walk around the small, but perfectly formed gardens. A number of the guests that day included Sherborne Old Girls, and we took the opportunity to commemorate our visit with a photo.



Diana with some of the Friends & Sherborne Girls in the gardens of Fenton House

It is amazing to find such an oasis of quiet and calm in the busy metropolis; there is even a small orchard of fruit trees in the grounds and it seemed as if a little bit of the English

countryside had been transported to noisy London. We are planning a delectable series of events for 2012 – Details are enclosed with this newsletter. For the latest news on HOLT, London, and heritage, you can follow Tara's personal account on twitter if you are registered – just search for @taraheritage and follow me!



Projects Offered Grants

At the Trustees meeting on October 25th, 2011, 8 projects were approved, with grants totalling £21,850. Details of the projects are below.

Kings College, Somerset House, East Wing. Westminster. Grade I

Somerset House is one of London's most important 18th century public buildings, designed by Sir William Chambers. Kings has taken over the East Wing of Somerset House and

are in the process of a £20 million renovation. The work is due to be completed by Christmas 2011. They need to unblock and restore 65 historic chimneypieces, which will be integrated into the new ventilation system. The chimneypieces will cost £325,000 (approx. £5,000 each). HOLT has agreed a grant of £5,000 towards chimneypiece restoration.

Painted Hall, Old Royal Naval College. Greenwich. Grade I

The Old Royal Naval College are embarking on an ambitious 5-10 year restoration of Sir James Thornhill's magnificent paintings. These have remained untouched for 50

years. Phase I of the works will tackle the paintings in the upper hall (*pictured above*).

The main issues are decades of dirt, cracking and damage from people passing too close to the walls. Phase I will cost £540,000. They have asked HOLT to help with restoration of the south west wall trompe l'oeil door case, which has had damage to the plasterwork and the paint effects (*pictured right*). HOLT has offered a grant of £2950 to cover the full cost of restoring this doorcase.



William Morris Gallery, Lloyd Park. Waltham Forest. Grade II*

The Gallery holds an internationally important collection of textiles, furniture, and artworks related to William Morris and the Arts & Crafts Movement. It is currently closed for a £4.8 million refurbishment and redevelopment, which will include new education and

study facilities as well as a café and shop. It will be re-opened in July 2012. As part of the restoration of this Grade II* building, its 9 chimneypieces need to be restored, as many have been hidden behind display panels. There are timber and marble examples, and the conservation will range from cleaning, to repairing damage to marble, and inserting hearths and ventilation flaps where necessary. This will cost £5,500. HOLT has offered a grant of £3,000 towards this.



George Myers Tombstone, West Norwood Cemetery. Lambeth

West Norwood Cemetery is one of London's most important cemeteries, the second of the so-called "Magnificent Cemeteries" to be built in the early Victorian age. The cemetery was consecrated by the Bishop of Winchester in



Syed Kamall MEP supporting Heritage of London Trust

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European
Conservatives
and Reformists
Group

1837. The Friends of West Norwood Cemetery are currently restoring the tomb of George Myers (1803-1875). Myers was one of the great Victorian master builders, a favourite of Pugin, for whom he undertook major construction works including Newcastle and Southwark



Cathedrals. Myers' headstone has disappeared and all that remains is a very weathered York stone ledger. It is estimated to cost £4,820 to lift the stone ledger, restore it and fix it to the new base. The trustees offered a grant of £1,000 to cover the restoration of the lettering.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Joseph's RC Church, Battersea Park Road. Wandsworth

This lovely Victorian church and adjoining chapel were begun in 1869. The ceiling was falling in and the church had suffered water



ingress. However, an enthusiastic priest and congregational have managed to raise £96,000 towards the £295,000 needed to restore the church.

The roof and ceiling have now been repaired. They have asked HOLT to support the conservation and cleaning of 3 very impressive stone and marble altars. The largest altar will cost £3,500 and the two smaller examples (*one pictured above*) £2,900 each. The trustees agreed a grant of £2,900 to restore one altar.

Charles Dickens Museum, 48 Doughty Street. Camden. Grade I

The Charles Dickens Museum opened in 1925 in the house where he lived and wrote some of his best known works, including *Oliver Twist* and *Nicholas Nickleby*. In preparation for



the 200th anniversary of Dickens' birth in 2012, the Museum has begun a £3.1 million refurbishment which will enhance and expand the museum's facilities. As part of the project they would like to clean the façade and make repairs to brickwork and pointing. It is hoped this will improve the appearance of the building and thus entice more visitors inside. The work will cost £6,000. The trustees have offered a grant of £3,000 towards this.

St. Augustine's Church, Honor Oak Park, Southwark. Grade II

HOLT gave a grant of £2,000 for the restoration of a beautiful stained glass window and its stonework surround for the First Phase of the restoration work here. They are now approaching us to support Phase Two, which will come to a total of £284,500. They have an HLF grant of £199,000 towards this. The trustees agreed a further grant of £2,000 for the stonework on the turret at the top of the tower.



St Thomas's Noak Hill, Church Road, Romford. Havering. Grade II

This church, which lies in an area of natural interest, was designed by George Smith (1783-1869) and built in 1842. There are more worrying cracks on the spire stonework which are in need of immediate attention. The damage was caused when metal thieves wrenched the lightning conductor from the finial, splitting the stone. The stonework repairs to the spire and west elevation (which was damaged by falling stone) are estimated to cost £7,136. The church are unable to make an insurance claim as this is the second metal theft in a year. HOLT has therefore offered a grant of £2,000 towards this.

