



HERITAGE of LONDON TRUST NEWSLETTER: Winter/Spring 2011

News from the Office

It was splendid to see so many of you at Will Palin's excellent lecture at the Pewterers' Hall in November. The event was sold-out – standing room only - and we are very grateful to our sponsor Guoman Hotels, and the Pewterers' Company for making it possible. We would also like to thank Will Palin for such a wonderful talk about the lost squares of Stepney – though it was truly sad to discover how much of the East End was lost to over enthusiastic councils and developers in the 1960s. We do hope that we will be able to find a new sponsor who will support such educational events in 2011.



Guests listen to Will Palin (left) at the Pewterers' Hall



Holt Friends (left to right) Malcolm Dickson, June Warrington & Helen Mowat enjoy a drink at the post-lecture reception

Over the weekend of February 19th and 20th HoLT hosted a stall at the Listed Property Show at Olympia. It was the first time HoLT has participated in such an event, but Diana & her many volunteers received excellent

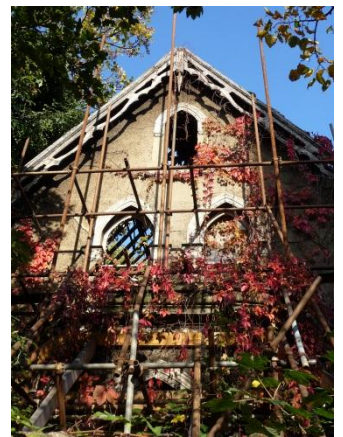
feedback from visitors who stopped at the stall. We also unveiled our new banner (*pictured below*), with our logo and colour photos, which we will use at future lectures and events.



Miss Jessica Beattie, HoLT Trustee Mr Bob Skelly and volunteer Mr John Hope on our stand

We signed up quite a few new members, and sold numerous postcards and trail guides, but most importantly we successfully heightened the profile of the Trust to an entirely new audience. We are extremely grateful to the many volunteers who helped on the stall: Ronnie Barden, Jessica Beattie, Nicholas Bell, Malcolm Dickson, Michael Ellison, John Hope, Helen Mowat, Miriam Sharp Pierson, and Bob Skelly.

There has been some exciting news from HoLT Ops – after a lengthy compulsory purchase process taken on by Southwark Council, the lease for 549 Lordship Lane, the Concrete House (*pictured*), has finally been signed, and work will soon begin on its restoration and conversion into 5 flats. The house may have been designed by Charles Barry Jnr, and was constructed in concrete by Charles Drake in the 1870s. It had been sorely neglected by its owners, and it was with great courage that Southwark took on the task of the CPO. We look forward to seeing this project take shape over the coming months!



Burton Memorial Restored!

HoLT Director Diana Beattie attended the unveiling of the restored mausoleum of Sir Richard Burton KCMG (1821-1890). Burton was legendary in his own time - a soldier, explorer, poet, geographer, and traveller, he uncovered the sacred city of Harar in Somalia. On his death the Royal Geographical Society wrote:

"His permanent fame as an explorer will rest on his journey to Lake Tanganyika, which ranks among the greatest deeds in the history of Africa discovery. He pioneered the way into the heart of Africa."

Burton wrote numerous books and is probably best known today for producing English translations of *The Thousand Nights and a Night* and the *Kama Sutra*, both inspired by his love of the East. He spent long periods investigating Islam and the Qu'ran and travelling in the Arabian Desert, and made trips - in Bedouin dress - to both Mecca and Medina.



Sir Richard Burton's Mausoleum

On his death in 1890 his wife Isabel constructed a fitting mausoleum for his remains in the churchyard of St Mary Magdalen RC Church in Mortlake, paid for by public subscription. In the form of an Arab tent with ripples in the stone imitating canvas, it is certainly one of Greater London's most unusual tomb monuments. The building is listed Grade II* and the interior is embellished with oriental lamps, devotional paintings and strings of camel bells.

Although restored in the 1970s, the monument has suffered from damp and fallen into disrepair over time, and ended up on English

Heritage's Buildings at Risk Register. A local group, spearheaded by Ms. Yannick Banks, was set up to fundraise for its restoration - the Friends of Burton raised over £50,000 to achieve the restoration, and work was undertaken by Holden Conservation Limited.

The Heritage of London Trust supported the project with a grant of £3,000 towards the restoration of the interiors of the mausoleum (which have always been visible to view via a small window set into the monument). Diana was thrilled to be able to hand over the cheque at the special unveiling on October 20th 2010 - HoLT is very pleased to have helped with this project and to see it fully restored.



Diana Beattie hands HoLT's cheque for £3,000 to Miss Yannick Banks of the Friends of Burton

Tara Draper-Stumm, February 2011

Society of Friends & Events

The visit to the Roman Amphitheatre in the City on March 22nd is now full, but we have an exciting selection of events for you to enjoy throughout the spring and summer. A booking form for events is included with this newsletter. In April we will have a special architectural tour of Benjamin Franklin House and on June 29th we have booked a coach trip to see the gardens at Highgrove, home of the Prince of Wales. This trip is limited to just 25 people, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

On Saturday, July 23rd HoLT, in association with National Churches Trust, we will host the Ride & Stride for London Churches. It is similar to National Ride & Stride – the object is to collect sponsors and visit as many churches as you can by bicycle, on foot, or by tube or bus. The money you raise is split between the church and HoLT and will be used

for restoration and conservation work. It will be an excellent opportunity to see London's diverse historic churches, some of which are not regularly open. Further info will be available soon on www.rideandstrideuk.org.

Heritage Lottery Fund

Have you ever thought of applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) but been concerned about the processes? Well, help is at hand. The HLF website has a range of detailed guidance, for example: "thinking about... conservation." If you are thinking about a small project (under £50,000), you might want to start with a useful series of leaflets called "*First Steps...*"

If your project is based in London, help is available from the London Development team in a number of ways. They offer training workshops on specific topics such as how to apply for small grants or working with other organisations to provide training on broader issues, such as working with heritage collections. Information is posted on the London regional pages of the HLF web site – www.hlf.org.uk/inyourarea/london. If you have an idea for a project, you can talk informally to Norma Pearson, and those submitting pre-application forms online will receive a detailed response with feedback on how to tailor project applications to meet HLF priorities for learning, conservation and participation.

If you are a first time applicant you could be offered a Grant Surgery – an excellent chance to meet a member of the Development team to discuss your project and the HLF application processes in more detail. There are lots of useful case studies on the web site involving buildings and monuments as well as other conservation projects. If you would like to know more about how HLF might be able to help your organisation with a heritage project contact: Norma Pearson, Development Officer, London Region by email (normap@hlf.org.uk) or call 020 7591 6190.

Norma Pearson, HLF

Projects Offered Grants

At the Trustees meeting on January 26th 2011, 5 projects were approved with grants worth £10,500. Details of these projects follow below.

K3 Telephone Kiosk, London Zoo. Regent's Park. Westminster. 1929 by Giles Gilbert-Scott, Grade II.

In Spring 2008 HoLT gave the ZSL London Zoo a grant of £5,000 to restore the critical windows as part of the successful restoration of the Tropical Birdhouse (originally built as a reptile house in 1882-3). The London Zoo is now working on its next major project, which will include the redevelopment of the Barclay Court area, with improved shopping facilities, visitor exit via Regent's Park, and a new Penguin Habitat. The Zoo's scheme to redevelop the Penguin Habitat will cost £600,000, while the total costs for all improvements will be £1.5 million. There will be a vastly expanded pool, with naturalistic landscaping. The habitat will also include Fairy Blue Penguins (native to New Zealand and Australia) for the first time.



As part of the new interpretation displays the Zoo would like to restore their Grade II listed K3 phone box – made of reinforced concrete and designed by Giles Gilbert-Scott as a more cost effective alternative to his first phone box, which was made of cast-iron. The concrete turned out to be too fragile, and few of the original 12,000 K3 boxes now survive – the Zoo's example was the first phone box to be listed in 1986. To give the K3 phone kiosk a new lease of life, it will be fitted with a new interpretation phone, which will allow visitors to pick up the receiver and choose to listen to a number of recordings about penguins. The phone kiosk needs to be restored, as there are areas of damaged concrete, and the structure will also need to be re-painted in its original colours of cream with red glazing bars. The cost for the restoration is expected to be £3,000, while the new interpretation phone and audio system will

cost an additional £2,000. The Trustees offered a grant of £3,000 to cover the full cost of the restoration.

Count De Vezlo Mausoleum, St Mary Magdalen Roman Catholic Church, Mortlake, Richmond. Unlisted.

This mausoleum was built to commemorate Guillaume, Comte de Vezlo (1894-1901) who died aged seven. Beside his plaque is another referring to his mother the Comtesse de Vezlo (d.1938). It is a small but elegant stone



building, with square windows and a cross over the gable, surrounded by iron railings. The interior includes a marble coffin and mementos from the young Count's life. The roof needs urgent repairs and the whole structure needs to be fully restored. The project is expected to cost £35,000 and the Trust has offered £2,000 towards the works.

St Peter's Church, 522 Lordship Lane. Boundary Wall & Railings. Southwark.

The church sits opposite the Concrete House, 549 Lordship Lane, a project being undertaken by HoLT Ops. The railings and boundary wall, and indeed the church and church hall are suffering



from subsidence – much of Dulwich is on London clay. A local resident supported the restoration of the war memorial at the site, but at the time there was not enough money to repair the railings. There is no issue with vandalism here and restoration of these railings will do much to improve the appearance of the South Circular. The work will be overseen by the Dulwich Society, who estimate that the project will cost £35,900. The Trustees have agreed a grant of £3,000 to help with the work.

Benjamin Franklin House, 36 Craven Street, Westminster c. 1730s. Grade I

Benjamin Franklin House was the home of Benjamin Franklin from 1757 to 1775. It is the only home of Franklin's to survive. The house was in a derelict state in the 1980s, but was saved by the Friends of Benjamin Franklin House, who began its restoration. It opened as a museum and educational centre on January 17th 2006. The Museum have found that they need to undertake some works to protect and preserve the building's original floor boards,



staircase treads and risers. The stair treads clearly show the wear and tear of 280 years of use, and the floor boards are also suffering from the footfall of regular visitors. The conservation work will include checking structural stability, and floorboards will need to be cleaned by hand and have oil applied to preserve them from further wear. The work is expected to cost £5,650 + VAT. The Trustees have agreed a grant of £3,000 towards this.

St John of Jerusalem, Lauriston Road, Hackney.

HoLT helped the church in 2008, with a grant of £4,000 to repair stone columns on the belfry. The church is now planning further works on the tower and while they have the scaffolding in place they intend to tackle work on the clock. This was erected via a public subscription in 1850. It retains its original dials and mechanism and there is a large pendulum within the former organ loft. The clock dials seem never to have been repaired and now require attention as some of the ironwork has rusted and joints and bolts come apart. This work is expected to cost £6,568.01. The church has grants or funds put aside to cover most of this, but have a shortfall of £500. The Trustees have therefore offered a grant of £500 to meet the shortfall.

