

# HERITAGE of LONDON TRUST

## NEWSLETTER: Spring/Summer 2010

### News from the Office

The Heritage of London Trust celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 16<sup>th</sup> with a party at the Lansdowne Club. Our patron HRH The Duke of Gloucester attended and gave a stirring speech, praising the incredible success we had achieved, helping hundreds of projects, with our smaller grants encouraging others to inject tens of millions of pounds into London's regeneration over the years. Well over 150 people joined us to celebrate, enjoying a special musical rendition of London Cries, specially composed for the evening by Mr Rupert Bond and in honour of HoLT co-founder Sir John Lambert. We are grateful to the Canary Wharf Group and the Golden Bottle Trust for sponsoring the party, which raised almost £5,000 for future projects. We would also like to graciously thank HoLT friend Lord Gough, who presented HoLT with a special donation of £25,000 at the party. Some of this money will be spent on our Charlton House project, since it was where Lord Gough's mother grew up. This donation helped finish off the financial year on a great high!



*Major Mike Gleeson (left) shares a joke with Mayor of Greenwich Cllr Alan MacCarthy and Mrs MacCarthy (photo by Jenny Dale)*

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, Tara represented the Trust at an unusual event – a church roof blessing! One of our recent projects, St Silas Pentonville celebrated the completion of their new roof. (HoLT contributed £2,000 towards stonework repairs at roof level.)

This was no ordinary roof however, but a piece of ground-breaking technology! Nestled amongst the soft grey slates are photovoltaic tiles, which will help the church to create solar energy. The tiles, which have been thoughtfully installed so that they are almost indiscernible from the slate, will help provide almost 47% of the church's energy needs and will cut their electricity bills by as much as £4,000 per annum. There was a great deal of concern in the heritage community about the photovoltaic tiles being added to a Grade II listed building, but the end result suggests sustainable energy solutions can be integrated into listed and historic buildings without damaging their character. Emily Beaumont, who is interning with HoLT over the summer, writes further about sustainability and heritage below.



*Father Shaun Richards blessing the new roof*

On May 20<sup>th</sup> HoLT, in association with the Institute of Historic Building Conservation and English Heritage, hosted the annual Borough Conservation Officers Conference at Westminster City Hall. Over 80 people attended, and the proceedings were opened by HoLT Trustee and Westminster Cllr Robert Davis DL, who gave an overview of Westminster's heritage strategy in the wake of recessionary pressures and the need to raise the bar of design when placing new developments side by side with Westminster's world-renowned heritage sites.

The keynote speaker was the new Minister for Culture and HoLT trustee Ed Vaizey MP, who praised the work of HoLT pointing out that it is

“small organisations like this [HoLT] that make a huge amount of difference.” Ed will not be responsible for heritage in his Culture portfolio, as heritage has been twinned with tourism and will be overseen by his colleague John Penrose. At this early stage in the new government he was unable to tell us exactly what the government’s plans would be for heritage, but he acknowledged that “heritage is both the past and the future...” and that “...restored buildings carry out modern functions.”

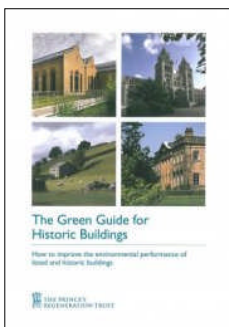


*Ed Vaizey MP speaks to the Conference*

He thanked everyone at the conference for the “tireless work” they do “to promote and protect heritage”. Since he will not be responsible for heritage, Ed will be able to stay on as a trustee of HoLT and support our work in the future. Although conference attendees were concerned about budget cuts and how the recession will affect London’s heritage, everyone seemed to feel enormously positive that a government Minister was on hand to express support for the efforts of London’s conservation officers and amenity societies.

*Tara Draper-Stumm*

## Book review



**The Green Guide for Historic Buildings: *How to improve the environmental performance of listed and historic buildings.***

The Princes Regeneration Trust must be

congratulated for this brave publication; an essential guide to anyone involved in the fields of heritage or climate change.

The book outlines a number of new green technologies available today and although the use of these has been well documented in the modern built environment, this book is unique in its careful analysis of not just the effectiveness of these alterations but how suitable they are for a historic or listed building.

It offers comparisons of the energy saving options with detailed case studies and outlines of how each technology works, making the book accessible to the amateur as well as containing more complex facts and figures useful to the professional.

Already I have had some feedback stating conflicting opinions; including solar panels interfering with the heritage aesthetic, moth eaten wool insulation and plant growth issues following the use of soil heat exchange. But contentious as this issue may be it is one the heritage sector must face as demands for more economic and greener living are ever increasing.

*Emily Beaumont*

## Society of Friends & Events

On April 20<sup>th</sup> a large group turned out on a warm and sunny evening to follow English Heritage’s Joanna Smith as she took us on a historical trail through the industrial heritage of Shoreditch. The area still retains many factory buildings, workshops and warehouses associated with the furniture and printing trades, which dominated this part of the City Fringe until after World War II.



*Joanna (right) explains the history of surviving workshops in Leonard Street*

We want our Friends to explore more of London’s history, so we have arranged another series of visits for you this summer and autumn. On June 10<sup>th</sup> we will visit the Museum of

London's archives, and on August 11<sup>th</sup> there is a chance to explore the Jacobean splendour of Charlton House. National Churches Trust is hosting a ride and stride of London churches on September 11<sup>th</sup>. There will also be visits to the newly restored Marianne North Gallery at Kew in September and Strawberry Hill later in November. Details of all these events can be found on the Events leaflet enclosed or on our website. Sadly we will be unable to arrange a coach visit to Kelmscott House this year, but hope to do this next year.

**DON'T FORGET**, we still have places in the Asics 10K run on Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup> – the places are free, but we do ask that you try and raise a minimum of £50 in pledges for HoLT. The Asics route takes in many of London's most iconic sites, including Hyde Park Corner, St James's Palace and Westminster, so if you'd like a nice jog through London's history, contact the office. Deadline for entries is July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Projects Offered Grants

At our Trustees meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 5 new projects were approved for grants totalling £8,500. Details of these projects appear below.

### **Violet Hill Studios, St Johns Wood, Westminster. Unlisted.**

Tony and Pauline Groman run this centre for complimentary healing which used to be the Abbey Tavern. 17 years ago, when the tavern was converted, a large wall painting was discovered entitled

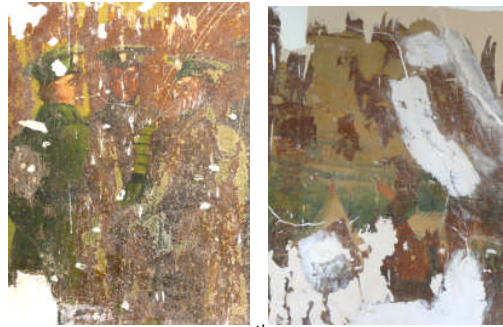


Toxophilites (love of archery). The painting has been dated 1834 and was discovered by Chris Jerome who said:

"I saw shadowing and what looked like images and very carefully we uncovered this amazing 19<sup>th</sup> Century mural". This piece of the picture was restored in 2002. It depicts the archery fields that surrounded the tavern.

Another part of the painting which they would like to restore was revealed in February 2010. There has been a good deal of interest in this discovery, both by the Honorary Archivist of the

St. John's Wood Society and from Archery groups.



*New parts of the 19<sup>th</sup> C mural uncovered*

The restoration of this new piece is estimated to cost £3,000, and the trust has offered a grant of £1,000 towards this.

### **St. Andrews, Fulham Fields, Hammersmith and Fulham. Grade II**

St. Andrew's church is in a deprived area of Fulham, however with the hard work put in by the present priest and congregation there is a constant stream of vibrant community activities here. This includes a mother and toddlers group, a homelessness project, luncheon club for the elderly, "interuniversity" a charity for disadvantaged children, and a fruit and veg co-operative.



*Damage to the EFA Barnes memorial window*

As part of a refurbishment project for the whole church, with total estimated costs of £3 million, we are being asked to contribute towards a memorial window to Mr. EFA Barnes, dated 1878. The window by A.L. Moore of Southampton Row is of very high quality and shows Martha and Mary with Mary Magdalene. It is badly damaged being bowed and with some holes in the glass. There are three windows on the North side of the church which need restoration and taken together they will cost £18,000 - £20,000. The Trust has offered £2,500 towards this.

**St Gabriel's Church, Walm Lane, Willesden Green, Brent. 1896-7. Grade II**

St Gabriel's, which was consecrated in 1897, takes its community work very seriously running a number of projects through its network of volunteers. They also boast a regular congregation of up to 200 people. The church is currently looking to undertake two restoration projects – one is to restore the tower clock and the other to reinstate the iron tower cross and weathervane.



*The clock and cross in a poor state*

The clock, made by Gillet and Johnston of Croydon in 1923, has a mechanism in good working order, but the faces and hands need to be restored and re-gilded, and a night silencing device installed. This is expected to cost a fraction under £5000. The iron cross with cockerel c. 1903 has become so damaged over time it is now beyond repair, consequently it has been suggested that a reproduction of the original should be fabricated in steel at a cost of £6,000. To help with their fundraising efforts the Trustees have offered a grant of £2,000 towards the clock.

**St Alphege, Greenwich. Monument to Sir James Creed and Dame Mary Creed. Church by Hawksmoor. World Heritage Site.**

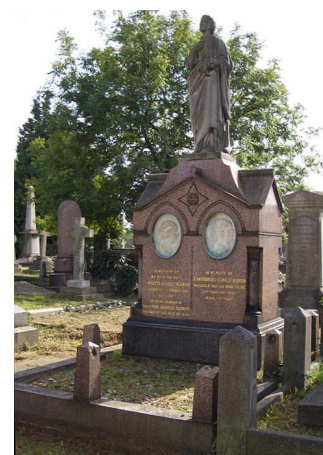
This is an extremely popular church in the centre of Greenwich and is hugely important historically. St Alphege was battered to death here by the Danes in 1012 and Henry VIII was christened here in 1491. They have 200 – 300 communicants on a Sunday plus 50 children in the Sunday School. The church hosts about 60 concerts a year and music is very popular here. The church is not poor and they have just received a legacy of £400,000 to be spent on the restoration of the fabric of the building.



However, there is a very important memorial here in need of some care. Dedicated to Sir James Creed and Dame Mary Creed (who both died in 1762) this monument has very fine quality lettering on marble, but the top of the obelisk is missing and the memorial is in a very sorry state and might disappear altogether if it is not tackled soon. Work on the memorial will cost £16,000 and the Trustees have offered £2,000 towards this.

**The Jean Francis Gravelet Blondin Monument, Kensal Green Cemetery, Kensington and Chelsea. Grade II.**

The monument was constructed in 1898 as a tomb to the celebrated tightrope walker (stage name – Charles Blondin), renowned for his crossing of the Niagara Falls. It is located in the prestigious Kensal Green Cemetery, one of London's oldest and finest public burial grounds containing 144 listed tombs, monuments and mausoleums.



*The Blondin Monument*

The monument has been subject to the elements over the years causing water damage erosion and subsidence. So we are offering the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery £1,000 towards the remedial works required for its upkeep.