

# HERITAGE of LONDON TRUST

## NEWSLETTER: Winter 2009

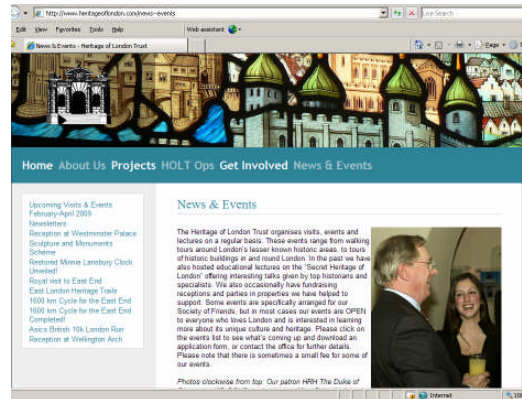
### News from the Office

Despite the bleak economic forecasts splashed all over every newspaper and TV channel, the Trust continues to encourage sponsorship. While our fundraising in 2009 will undoubtedly be challenging, the year has begun promisingly, with an increased donation from regular supporter the Garfield Weston Foundation, and after some years former donor the Salisbury Trusts have renewed their interest in our work with a generous donation this January. We have also had approaches from new donors, including the Masons' Company Charitable Trust. This all bodes well for the future, but we would like to remind all our Friends to continue to spread the word about our work and if you have charitable or business contacts that might benefit us, please do contact the office!

We are pleased to welcome 3 new Trustees to our Board: Dr Ann Robey, Roger Bright MA, and Ed Vaizey, MP. Dr Robey worked for many years for the Survey of London, RCHME and English Heritage, and recently oversaw a successful HLF bid on behalf of St Augustine's Tower, Hackney. Roger Bright joined the Crown Estate in 1999, and has been Chief Executive since 2001. Ed Vaizey is conservative MP for Wantage and Didcot and Shadow Minister for Arts. We do hope that they will all enjoy working with us. They are a wonderful addition to our already impressive team of Trustees, and we are sure they will help to inspire us in new directions and help us achieve greater success in the years ahead!

Our website continues to expand – it is always worth taking a look at the latest news or project details, as information is updated regularly. You can also e-mail us from the website, go to our *Justgiving* page or watch our BBC podcast on the Minnie Lansbury Clock. There are also useful links to associated organisations. We do hope that all

our Friends will find it an informative and enjoyable tool for keeping in touch with our work.



*A page from our website*

### Completed Projects

Side by side with the projects that are just beginning are those that are coming to an end. In the 2008-9 financial year, we have seen over 20 projects completed and more than £76,000 paid out in grants (don't forget that HOLT doesn't hand out any money until works are completed!). Below is a list of all the projects that have been completed in this financial year with a few photos:

Lewisham Elders Resource Centre, Lewisham (external stucco and masonry); St Anne's Highgate, Camden; St Andrew's Sudbury, Brent (west window); Highgate Cemetery, Camden (Dissenters Catacombs); St Paul's Ruislip Manor, Hillingdon (west window); St Martin's in the Fields, Westminster (portico railings); Royal Hospital for Neurodisability, Wandsworth (dome), St Patrick's, Barking & Dagenham, (art deco reredos); Minnie Lansbury Memorial Clock, Tower Hamlets, (full restoration); Soyer Monument, Kensal Green, Kensington & Chelsea (restoration and cleaning); Granville Sharpe Tomb, Hammersmith and Fulham (lettering restored); New Kings School, Kensington & Chelsea (magic mural); St Cuthbert with St Matthias, Kensington & Chelsea (protection for windows); St George's Bloomsbury, Camden (font); St Paul's Cathedral, City of London (south gates and railings), 810 High Road

Tottenham, Haringey (façade); Gloucester Gate Bridge, Camden (lamp standards); Petersham Lock-up, Richmond; St Andrew's Catford, Lewisham (organ case).



*Left: Newly restored entrance and façade at 810 High Road, Tottenham; right: St Patrick's Barking, Reredos & Altar. St Patrick's has recently been listed Grade II, a great achievement!*

## Society of Friends & Events

After many cold weeks, the Friends made an attempt to usher in spring with a visit to Kew Gardens on February 18<sup>th</sup>. It was a pleasure to see Kew slowly awakening from its winter slumber – snowdrops were out, as were a veritable choir of happy Robins and green Parakeets! We were there to see how work was progressing at one of our current projects - the Marianne North Gallery. The gallery displays the paintings of Marianne North (1830-1890), who had spent many years travelling the world to paint flowers in their native habitats.

After an exhibition of her paintings in 1872, Marianne left her works to the Royal Botanical Gardens, offering to provide a suitable building for their display – her friend, architectural historian James Fergusson designed the gallery, which Marianne decorated with decorative stencil work and exotic wood inlays. 832 of her paintings were arranged in frames in geographical order to completely cover the walls. The gallery opened to the public in 1882.

In 2008 Kew began a project to fully restore the building and its artworks. The building has suffered from water ingress and a lack of environmental controls has left the paintings vulnerable. In 2008 HOLT offered a grant of

£5,000 towards the restoration of the painted doorcases. It was therefore a great pleasure for the Friends to be given an opportunity to visit the gallery and see how the restoration work was progressing.

Conservator Eleanor Hasler showed us some of the paintings and explained the conservation process for each one, which included a full condition assessment, the removal of acidic backing boards (which could do serious damage to the paintings if left in place) and a light cleaning. Later, the group donned protective clothing and saw how the restoration work was progressing in the gallery itself. Site Manager David Slater guided us onto the scaffolding to see the newly re-plastered ceiling and to show us the delicate stencil decoration. A heating system is being installed for the first time, which will ensure that the pictures are properly protected in future. It was a thoroughly fascinating visit, and we look forward to seeing the gallery re-opened to the public in autumn 2009.



*Conservator Eleanor Hasler explains the cleaning of the paintings*

Don't forget that there are some more exciting events this summer – June is the Mayor of London's **Story of London** cultural festival. As part of this event, the Trust will be hosting walking trails in Newham and Tower Hamlets on June 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, and on June 11<sup>th</sup> our artist in residence Clare Newton will be unveiling a series of photographic collages in West Ham Park. On July 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a walk in Dulwich followed by a fundraising supper at the home of HOLT Friends Robin Key & Liz Harwood. Details will be sent to Friends in May.

*Tara Draper-Stumm, March 2009*