



# HERITAGE *of* LONDON TRUST

## NEWSLETTER: Autumn 2007

### News from the Office

With the help of our volunteer Miss Helen Mowat, we have been working on building a database of *Friends* and donors to improve efficiency. Tara has been busy coming up with ideas for our new website, to be launched in January 2008. The website will have more photographs, info on events and current projects, and links to associated groups. We're also hoping to include a link so you can donate online! We also plan to produce a series of postcards of our projects, which will be available for purchase and can be used as publicity material. It is hoped that over the next two years we can also produce charity Christmas cards and other select merchandise that will not only help us to raise money but will also raise our profile.

### Completed Projects

We try to get out and see projects whenever possible, and it is always exciting to have the chance to meet conservators and craftsmen on-site once work gets underway. In September Diana & Tara, accompanied by new Trustee Dudley Fishburn, visited Hampton Court to see the *terracotta roundels of Roman Emperors*. Eight of these were commissioned by Cardinal Wolsey in 1521 from the Florentine Sculptor Giovanni da Maiano. The sculptures were so popular that Henry VIII commissioned two more for the Holbein Gate at Whitehall Palace. Although the Holbein Gate has long since been demolished, Henry's two roundels survived and joined the others at Hampton Court in 1840.

The roundels are exposed to the elements and some have suffered badly from water ingress. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century a few of them were repaired and in some cases the bust or its foliate surround replaced – these may have been produced using moulds based on the originals.



*Dudley Fishburn and Diana Beattie (left) with the conservation team inspecting a roundel.*

In spring 2007 HOLT paid a grant of £2,000 towards scientific monitoring of the roundels of Emperors Otho, Galba, Julius and Titus. The monitoring programme will continue until 2009 and allow the conservators to assess various approaches to protecting, conserving and restoring these works of art. They have already made some astounding discoveries during this process, including ascertaining that the clay used comes from Tuscany, although it is not certain if the clay was brought to England or whether the roundels were modelled and fired in Italy. It was a privilege to get this close to one of England's great artistic treasures!

### Raffle & Reception

The Trust has been extremely lucky to have the assistance of our wonderful student intern, Miss Chloé Nelkin, over the last few months. She is currently studying Art History at The Courtauld Institute of Art, but has also managed to organise a fully-sponsored fundraising reception for our major donors on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at Wellington Arch in association with English Heritage. *We are very grateful to Quintain Estates and Development PLC, Watts Group PLC, and Hurford Salvi Carr for sponsoring this event.* Tickets cost £50 and are very limited. If you are interested in attending, please contact the office for further details.

To coincide with the reception, Chloé has organised a magnificent **RAFFLE!** All the prizes have been graciously donated, so every penny raised will go directly to our grants programme. Prizes include a weekend in a Vivat Trust Property, dinner for two at Michelin starred restaurant Foliage at the Mandarin Oriental, tea for two at the Lanesborough Hotel, lunch cruise on the Thames and many other exciting prizes!

We will be sending each of the *Friends* a book of 10 tickets (value £20), and kindly ask you to sell them to work colleagues, family and friends. If you would like to sell more, then please contact the office and we'll post you further tickets. If you feel you'd rather not sell any, then just send the tickets back to us. *We are grateful to The Lanesborough Hotel, The Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park Hotel, Axis Restaurant, Bateaux London, Vivat Trust, Duchy Originals, and English Heritage for donating prizes.*

## Fundraising

So far 2007-8 looks set to be our most successful year ever. We have brought in £210,000 in donations since April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. This amount includes a major donation from GML Ltd, through the recommendation of one of our trustees. We are extremely grateful to GML for believing in our work. Their donation will be a huge boost to our grants programme over the next 18 months, allowing us to make a much bigger impact, particularly with East End projects.

## Society of Friends & Events

We would like to thank all of you who made the summer events such a success! Every visit and event, from the St James's Walking Tour in May to the visit to Spencer House in September, was a sell-out. It is always lovely for us to meet you all face-to-face, and the feedback we get from you is very helpful in planning future *Friends* events. We would particularly like to thank those of you who journeyed all the way to Walthamstow for

the visit to the *William Morris Gallery* in August. This gallery, like so many of London's small local museums, is under threat from budget cuts. It has been confirmed that the cuts to opening times and staff will take effect in January. The curator Peter Cormack, who kindly gave us a tour of the collections, will be leaving the gallery in December. He will be greatly missed and his specialist expertise a great loss for the gallery.

On a happier note, we have been working hard to arrange another interesting series of events for the *Friends* in 2008. There will be visits to Winfield House, the home of the US Ambassador, an evening at the Tower to watch the Ceremony of the Keys, a tour of the Drapers' Hall, and a visit to the Ministry of Defence art collections. Details of all the events can be found on the events leaflet, or contact the office for further information.



*Experience the Ancient Ceremony of the Keys!*

The Trust is also hoping to launch a major initiative in 2008—an East End Heritage Trail. We want to get as many people as possible to come and see the heritage of the East End on the weekend of September 13-14, 2008. There will be a Heritage Trail booklet, with details of historic buildings/monuments that you can visit. The purpose of this initiative is to highlight the wonderful and little known heritage of the East End and try and draw much needed regeneration funds to the area, which is among the most deprived in Britain. Further information on this event and how you can take part will be forthcoming in spring 2008.