



HERITAGE *of* LONDON TRUST

NEWSLETTER: Winter/Spring

2008

News from the Office

After a very relaxing break over Christmas and New Year, it was back to full speed ahead in 2008. The new website is still under construction, but is already looking much more exciting, and should be completed by the end of February. We had a very successful corporate fundraising reception at Wellington Arch on January 17th, in association with English Heritage. Our patron, HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO, attended the event, and gave a very thought provoking speech. Congratulations to all those friends who won prizes in the raffle – some of our most dedicated members were lucky and we hope you will enjoy your prizes! The party raised almost £5,000 for our grants programme which is a wonderful achievement.



*Our patron, HRH The Duke of Gloucester, and HOLT volunteer Miss Chloé Nelkin, in party mood at Wellington Arch. Photo by Martyn Goddard
© Country Life Picture Library*

Our student intern and volunteer, **Miss Chloé Nelkin**, did most of the organising for the event, taking care of everything from corporate sponsors to the flowers. The event received a two-page colour-photo spread in **Country Life** (January 24, 2008). We are most grateful to Chloé for all her hard work! Her intelligence, enthusiasm, and youthful outlook are great assets for us to call upon.

Diana Beattie and new Chairman Martin Drury have been busy charming new donors. We are pleased to announce that the Canary Wharf Group plc, who oversee Canary Wharf, have agreed to sponsor the Trust for the next five years – their donation of £25,000 per annum will make an enormous impact and we are very grateful for their enthusiastic support.

Completed Projects

Putney Old Burial Ground, Wandsworth

Wandsworth Council has just completed a £43,000 project to restore a series of tombs that date from the 18th century. Our lovely office volunteer, Helen Mowat, was on hand in December for the unveiling of the newly restored tombs at Putney Old Burial Ground. The tombs are all highly architectural in style and some are elaborately carved, with classical roundels, swags and skulls. Four of the tombs, including the **Tomb of Robert Wood**, are listed.



The Tomb of Robert Wood before the restoration
Robert Wood (1716/17-1771) was an archaeologist, adventurer and politician. He is best remembered today for his extensive work investigating classical buildings in the Middle East, and he published two important volumes on the *Ruins of Palmyra* (1753) and the *Ruins of Baalbec* (1757). His architectural engravings helped to fuel a growing passion

for the ancient world in the mid-18th century. Horace Walpole thought very highly of Wood's achievements and wrote that "*Of all the works that distinguish this age, none perhaps excel (Robert Wood's) beautiful editions of Baalbec and Palmyra.*"

His sarcophagus, set on a rectangular base and decorated with lion's feet, is listed Grade II*. The Trust gave £2,500 towards the restoration of Wood's tomb and another monument. We are pleased to see these tombs restored and to have helped to revive the memory of a man whose work inspired wonderful architecture in 18th century Britain, and ultimately encouraged an archaeological re-discovery of the Ancient Mediterranean and Near East.

Liz & Robin cycle for the East End

Two of the Friends, **Liz Harwood and Robin Key**, are setting off in early summer on an epic charity cycle ride from Lands End in Cornwall to John O'Groats in Scotland. Their route will cover 1600 km. They will be doing this the hard way – NO support team will follow them, and they'll be sleeping under the stars or in camp sites as they journey along country lanes.



*Liz and Robin with their bicycles outside
St John's Church, Bethnal Green*

Liz and Robin have completed two major charity events in the past – a climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, and a Coast to Coast walk. It seems that these two loveable souls are very driven and just a little bit

crazy to take on such an enormous journey! However, we think they are **WONDERFUL** because they're doing this cycle on behalf of the Trust!

They will be funding the trip themselves, so every penny they raise in sponsorship will go directly to our projects in the East End! You can help them to make this epic ride a success, and raise funds for our work, by making a pledge online at:

www.justgiving.com/lizandrobincycleride

(or call Tara in the office for a donor form)

Justgiving is a secure website that helps charities raise funds in an efficient and easy way—Liz and Robin have their own info page on the site where you can see who has supported the event and read updates. Everyone at the Trust wish Liz and Robin good luck, safety and success with this cycle, and we are very grateful that they are so enthusiastic about our work. We hope our cycle friends have the time of their lives!

Society of Friends & Events

Don't forget to renew your membership in 2008 – reminder forms will be sent out soon, with information of your last payment. You can now pay online if you'd like, at:

www.justgiving.com/heritageoflondon

There are still places available on some of our forthcoming events– if you are interested in touring the **Anglican Chapel and Catacombs at Kensal Green Cemetery** (April 12th, 5:30pm, £7), visiting the **Drapers' Hall** in the city (May 27th, 11am, £5), or a **walk around historic Walthamstow Village** (June 19th, 5:30pm, free), please contact Tara in the office to book your place.

Remember to keep **September 11th-14th** free for our first **East End Heritage Trail** in Tower Hamlets. With the Olympics arriving in 2012, we want to highlight the historic treasures of East London, and hopefully raise some money for essential repairs. It will also be a great chance for you to see some of the projects we've supported over the years. We hope to see you there!

Tara Draper-Stumm, February 2008