



**FRIENDS OF  
CARSHALTON  
WATER TOWER**

**Chairman's Annual  
Report 2008/9**

Our Chairman of the Trustees, Sister Mary Damian, is at the moment resting after an extremely energetic period. We wish her a speedy return to full health, greatly refreshed. The programme of events this period has followed traditional lines and drawn on past successes. We had a most enlightening talk given by John Freeman after our AGM in 2008. He guided us through the changes he had made to our Water Tower floodlighting equipment by introducing greener and more cost effective luminaires to keep abreast of the latest technology. Simone and Sonja gave us a wonderful taste of Italy at the end of June, perfectly catching the mood of summer. In July we supported the London Borough of Sutton's Take Part Take Pride festival.

At the end of August we had a stall at the Environmental Fair to raise our profile which was successful in spite of the weather being cold and overcast. Doris Freeman, as usual, gave us great support in organising our stall at the Carshalton Charter Fair and, with her team of helpers, raised a considerable sum for us as Doris has done through the year in organising our raffles. Both Heritage weekends, the National and London Open House, were very well attended. Our Autumn talk, given by the writer Joanna Bogle was fascinating, revealing unexpected origins of many of our traditional feasts and festivals. As extremely busy September closed, we supported the Opening of Carshalton House to the general public and enjoyed this event as we offered tea and met many people from out of the Borough. In October Beer, Bangers & Mash was, as usual, a very successful event due to the very hard work of Liz & John, Doris & John, Julia and Simone. We closed the year with our Christmas Soiree. Being amongst our Friends is always a most enjoyable affair. Liz, John and Simone created that wonderful seasonal atmosphere in prose, verse and music, with technical support from John Freeman. John also switched on the Water Tower floodlighting and we had the pleasure of enjoying the illuminated Water Tower a little longer this year.

In April, for the start of the new season, we had our traditional Heritage Quiz with several local groups sending teams. Our thanks goes to Carol Jenkins of Whitehall who set the questions this year. It was great fun but alas we will have to wait until next year to have our name on the winner's shield. In May we were very pleased to welcome again St Rafael's Charity Walkers and the Mayor. We also supported the London Borough of Sutton's Arts Festival with Lorna and Brendan Maye's most interesting talk on the history of lavender and the development of their newly created lavender business, opposite the Oaks Park. On

Sunday, as part of the festival, we had two charming of musicians, Rebecca and James play on the lawn in front of the Water Tower to entertain our visitors and those visiting Carshalton House, which was open to the general public. Julia, Doris and John served delicious homemade cakes, made by Liz and Doris. It was an idyllic afternoon.

Our gardeners, ably lead by Tony Alien, have been hard at work throughout the year. We welcome a new gardener Kay Mills and thank her for her support. Apart from the routine maintenance work around the Water Tower and Hermitage, they have been involved with revealing the Folly Bridge. We have quotes in the region of £20,000 - £35,000 to carryout its refurbishment and are seeking grants to help us carry out this work. We now have representation on the newly formed Wandle Valley Regional Park Forum which has been set up to develop the leisure aspects of the River. Closer to home however, the Garden Committee, which has members from St Philomena's and St Mary's Junior School, is working well and Shirley Hulme, St Mary's Head Teacher, has been kind enough to give us lavender and pansies for our Versailles cases on either side of our bench by the entrance gate.

We have had the usual diverse range of private visits and tours for the Brownies, Guides, walkers and the Georgian Society but lettings, which were very healthy in 2008 to the point of getting very difficult to man, are almost non existent this year. Unfortunately this will have a great impact on the restoration work we can carryout. We have however had the external wall behind the new drains re-rendered to finish this project, a new toilet pan fitted and we have bought six collapsible square tables to marry with our larger rectangular ones. We are in the process of getting the windows painted but we should like to restore the terrace area above the Head Race on the lake's edge and refurbish the stairwell as soon as possible.

New for this season the Committee has had printed eight superb postcards and our deepest thanks goes to our two Johns for their artistic talents. We have also created two leaflets. One gives a sketch plan of the garden and a short history of its development. The other leaflet shows on a garden plan the position of the Stations of the Cross and gives a little of their history.

There is however very sad news to report. One of our earliest Friends, David Lloyd, has died. He has not lived in the area for sometime but had continued to keep us in his thoughts. David was very enthusiastic about the Water Tower and introduced several of his friends. Although we have lost this very dear Friend we have a lasting memory of David in his beautiful watercolour painting of the Water Tower, which is on permanent display in the Orangery.

With your support and help, as Friends and Volunteers, we can achieve so much. Please continue to give it. Our particular thanks goes to everyone who has helped with working parties, Sunday duties in the Water Tower and with Hermitage tours: Anne and John Dodwell; Jeannie; Meg Woodford; Clive Orton; Andrew Skelton; Tony and Derek, our Committee Member, who has not been in good health this year.

My deepest thanks goes to your Committee; Julia and Liz, Simone, Sonja and our two John's, Derek and Ian, who we wish well as he is in extremely poor health at the moment. The Committee has been of enormous support to me and have incredible dedication to all that is the Friends of Carshalton Water Tower and the Trust.

[www.carshaltonwatertower.co.uk](http://www.carshaltonwatertower.co.uk)

*The Friends of Carshalton Water Tower, the working Committee of the Carshalton Water Tower and Historic Garden Trust, Registered Charity no. 1086143*