



FRIENDS OF
CARSHALTON
WATER TOWER

Chairman's Report 2014 - 2015

Dear Friends and Volunteers

Thank you very much for your support over the past year. We have really managed to achieve a considerable amount together this year. We are extremely pleased to tell you that we are now opening the Hermitage twice a month, on the first Sunday as we have traditionally done and the third Sunday, as a trial run. This has been made possible because we have two new additional Hermitage guides, Margret Coombs and Peter Wotten. Our deep thanks goes to them for volunteering for this duty which has proved to be very successful so far. Paul Freeman has been working hard throughout the year on our website. In always looking for ways to develop and update it, Paul has set up a programme which enables people to buy tickets for our events online. This is a great asset to us and our deep thanks goes to him. For our visitors to the Water Tower, with Tricia's help, we have introduced information sheets in each room, some with large print and to add to our list of foreign language information flyers Hannah has provided the text in Arabic. This season we have put the Water Tower entry fee up to £2 for adults but their children are now free. Fortunately, so far, it appears to have had no effect on visitor numbers.

Shortly after our AGM last year the stair carpet was laid and all the exterior woodwork on the north, south and west face of the Water Tower and the interior Bathroom woodwork was painted. We had another contractor to paint the door from the Pump Chamber to the steps down to West Street. The railings outside and the two benches on the south side of the Water Tower were also painted. Our latest completed project is the new folding door arrangement from the Orangery to the Saloon which opens up this aperture completely. We have bought a new cash register as our original one could not be repaired.

The Trustees have had the floor of the Hermitage cleaned and have had restored the broken cement repairs with Oland stone from the same quarry from which the stone was originally won in the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century. The entrance to the Spring Head, near to the Hermitage, has also be restored and a new entrance gate fabricated with your financial support.

Our events this year have been generally well supported. Just after our AGM, we had an extremely well researched and enlightening talk given by Andrew Skelton, 'The Hardwickes and Ansons at Carshalton House'. The response to our opening in support of the London Open Gardens and Squares was a little better than expected considering that no other gardens or parks in our area were open in support of this initiative. Still very much with gardens in mind, we had a most enjoyable event to celebrate the summer solstice. Michael Symes entertained us with music, prose and verse on the theme of, 'There are Druids at the bottom of our Garden'. This was very well received. John Thornton very valiantly represented us at both the Carshalton Charter Fair and the Environmental Fair and John Freeman mounted an exhibition in support of the Festival of Archaeology.

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. 10862