



# NEWSLETTER

No.48, FEBRUARY 2012

## FRIENDS OF CARSHALTON WATER TOWER

### **Our Twentieth Anniversary Year**

We are absolutely delighted to announce that this is our 20th Anniversary Year!

This celebration has only been made possible because of your most generous support of our beautiful site and of your Committee, initially for the Water Tower as the Carshalton Water Tower Trust and then as the Carshalton Water Tower and Historic Garden Trust.

The Committee however is not resting on any laurels it may have and has devised a celebratory programme for you this year which we hope will excite you. You will see the very popular events scheduled and new ones added. The Friends Quiz (on the Queen's Birthday) and due to popular demand John Freeman's Times Past VII film show will be repeated. We are supporting Museums at Night with a Water Tower open evening; The Heritage Department's Carshalton House Opening; The Wandle Festival and London Open Gardens & Squares.

Also in June we will have our 20th Anniversary celebratory party which will take place after our AGM. We will also be entertained by the film, *A Day in the Life of the BBC*. The afternoon will really be a must and we do hope that you will be able to attend. However before the month is out the festivities continue. The restored Hermitage is the venue for a special sponsored evening, 'Cider Fest with Midsummer Minstrelsy'. Gerald Place and Dorothy Linell will entertain us with early English music and song and there will be light refreshments with the cider.

July is also very exciting. We will support again the Festival of British Archaeology. But this year Andrew Skelton has devised with Jeff Perry a very special garden tour, *The Carshalton House Estate, an Archaeological Walk through Time*. This will be accompanied by an Exhibition of the site's archaeological data. Clive Orton will also be on hand to answer questions about the finds in the Water Tower.

We open, as traditionally, to support the Heritage Openings in September and will have our ever-popular autumn events: John Freeman has compiled another very evocative new programme of film from his archive, and Beer, Bangers and Mash and the Christmas Soirée are also on the programme.

Our Orangery display this year will introduce Carshalton House's sporting past to enter into the cultural spirit of the Olympic Games.

The series of events on offer this very special year and our restoration projects completed to date, we hope will induce you to support and enjoy the Water Tower and Historic Garden Trust and your Committee, with your friends this year and at least for another 20 years to come!

*Jean Knight*

### **Gardeners Awake, your skills are needed!**

We are having a Garden Working Party on Saturday 31 March from 10.00 am. Please bring your own hand tools. A light lunch will be provided. If you require further information please contact our Head Gardener, Tony Allen, 01737 354690.

### **The Hermitage Opening**

We were particularly pleased that the practical completion of the Hermitage restoration work finished in time for us to be able to take visitors into the Hermitage in September and that we had not lost the complete year for showing off this little gem.

We had an extremely pleasant official Opening. Derek, as Chair of the Trustees, welcomed dignitaries, donors and our volunteers in the Water Tower and then the party processed to the Hermitage for refreshments. Tracey Craig and Stephen Senior with his partner came from English Heritage. Hamish Pollock, the Deputy Mayor of Sutton, gave an address and Tom Brake MP also spoke. It was an exceedingly congenial afternoon and evening helped by the unexpectedly fine weather.

We are exceedingly pleased that we were able to get the English Heritage grant and that you were so generous in your support of this project thus enabling us to get this restoration work completed in time for our 20th Anniversary.

### **The Environmental Fair**

I believe that this is the first year since we have had a stall at the Environmental Fair, in August, that we have not all but been blown away or nearly frozen to death. The weather was most clement. This appeared to have a very good influence on the visitors as we had considerably longer conversations with them this year, extolling the beauty of our venue and explaining the exciting events we still had to offer them. It was a very successful day.

### **The Angel Award**

Unfortunately we did not win an Angel Award for the Hermitage restoration work but we were competing against much larger projects. Westenhanger Castle and Medieval Barns and St Stephen's Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead, were the winners in our two possible classes. However as mentioned in the last newsletter, we did get exposure in a national with a small photograph in the Sunday Telegraph which increased our visitor numbers.

### **Kay Mills**

It is with the deepest sorrow that I have to give you the sad news that Kay Mills has died. This is a great loss to us. Not only was Kay an enthusiastic gardener and stimulating conversationalist but she was a wonderful person and supporter of the Water Tower. Kay is already greatly missed by us and our thoughts are with her family for their great loss.

*Jean Knight*

### **The Water Tower in the wider world**

In September the Tower features in the listings for both the national Heritage Weekend and Open House London and attracts visitors from further afield than is normal but we are faced with the frustratingly paradoxical situation that whilst many more people come through the door, we have to let them in free! However, with the assistance of the Water Tower catering division (Julia, Doris, Liz and Simone) we contrive not to let them out again without having parted with a good deal more than the price of a postcard. In September 2011 the temptations of tea and cakes boosted the takings to just short of £200, so congratulations to all concerned.

*John Thornton*

### **Ales from a small Sussex Brewery featured at Beer Bangers and Mash 2011**

Again with help from *The Hope* public house in West Street, Beer Bangers and Mash featured a small brewery: the 1648 Brewing Company, situated in the village of East Hoathly in East Sussex. The *King's Head* pub in the centre of the village is the primary outlet for the beer produced, whilst an old stable building belonging to *The King's Head* has been used for this brewing venture, which started in 2002. It should be noted that the brewery name alludes to the year Charles I's death warrant was signed.

The five bottled beers obtained for the 2011 beer tasting were all bottle matured, so this year the beer was decanted into jugs to avoid sediment in the glasses, though this inevitably slows the serving process.

The first beers were tasted in the following order: Ruby Mild, Lammas Ale, and Triple Champion - the third provided as the beer to drink with the Bangers and Mash supper. Again there were three locally made sausages on offer which came from Woodward's butchers, accompanied by mash, beans and onion gravy. After the food the usual raffle draw was made, money from which helps to support the upkeep of the Tower.

The final beers tasted were Hop Pocket and Armistice Ale. Although mild ale is not to everybody's taste, the beers were generally well received by those attending, the final two beers for the night, Hop Pocket and Armistice Ale, being particularly liked.

We would like to thank all who attended, and those who worked so hard both before and on the night, as it is probably one of our most labour-intensive events of the year.

*John Freeman*

### **'Times Past: Transport VII' - Archive Films at the Tower in October 2011**

The 2011 Times Past documentary film showing was again well attended, with the films presented coming from various sources, dating from the 1940s to the 1960s, looking at a changing Britain after the War and beyond.

The first half of the show had a British holiday theme, starting with a look at the Motor Rail and Ferries operated by British Rail in the 1960s in the film 'Give Your Car a Holiday'. There then followed seven short clips from films promoting holidays in Britain from the 1940s to the 1960s, including some unusual ones, such as 'Working Farm Holiday Camp' from 1944, 'Amphibious Caravan' 1955 and 'Family Cycling Holiday' 1961. The final film for the first half of the programme, 'Yorkshire Sands' made in 1955, looked at traditional seaside holidays on the Yorkshire coast.

Films in the second half of the programme were 'Your Tea, Madam' an old promotional film from the 1930s for the Rington's Tea Co, 'The Moving Spirit' a cartoon on the history of the motor car made in 1953, 'Calling All Cars' a 1948 film from the RSPA on road safety made with the help of Lancashire police. The final film of the programme, 'Market Place', took a look at London's street markets as seen in 1959, and also at the new supermarkets of the time, and was humorously narrated by the late Sid James. Also included in the programme was a short silent film 'Washday Blues' from around 1960 by the late Charles Bailey, who was a BBC cameraman and an uncle of one of our committee members. This shows the frustration of a South London housewife when it rains on washday, and gives a good view of what things were like at the time. No washing machines or tumble dryers here!

If you missed Times Past VII or would like to see it again, or prefer a daytime showing, you will be welcome at the Tower on the Saturday afternoon of 19 May at 2.30pm. A new Times Past event is being planned for the end of October. Look out for further details.

*John Freeman*

### **The Christmas Soirée**

The weather was kind to us on 7 December last and we had a record attendance at this popular event. In addition to the usual carols, and readings from Simone, Liz and John, we had live music from Gerald Place, who sang and played a tenor *viola da gamba*. (Gerald will be entertaining us again at our midsummer event on Friday 29 June.) The mulled wine and seasonal food were again consumed with relish. Thanks are due to John Freeman for technical backup, and to Doris for organising the Raffle, which raised £95.

*Julia Gertz*

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(The working Committee of the Carshalton Water Tower and Historic Garden Trust. Registered Charity No. 1086243)*

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