



**FRIENDS OF  
CARSHALTON  
WATER TOWER**

# NEWSLETTER

No. 58, FEBRUARY 2017

## **Dear Friends**

With the promise of spring comes our special programme for the year. I write 'special' because we are celebrating Sir John Fellowes. Our raison d'etre is Sir John because he bought Carshalton House Estate in late 1716 and without his vision to create our beautiful Water Tower we would not exist. Andrew Skelton has very kindly offered to give us an illustrated talk at the beginning of May about Sir John and his acquaintances in the Carshalton Area. After Andrew's talk there will be a celebratory tea. We will have the return of the display 'Dodgy Bankers' in the Orangery. This is extremely pertinent as Sir John was a merchant, a banker and the Sub-Governor of the South Sea Company at the time of its Crash when there were some very 'dodgy' goings on indeed! This theme of finance will be picked up by John Phillips who will give us an illustrated talk about Sir Nicholas Carew, Sir John's contemporary and near neighbour at Beddington. And the Trustees will publish our book on Carshalton House and the landscape garden which includes highlights of Sir John's achievements. However, you will see from the enclosed programme that we have included our traditionally popular events. We commence in early April with Amanda's enlightening and enjoyable quiz. Then John Freeman has arranged a repeat of 'Times Past XII - Vintage 1930s & 1940s Film'. This was very well received last Autumn and can be viewed again on a Saturday afternoon in late May. This showing has been arranged for everyone who does not like to go out into the dark or who would just wish to enjoy this most interesting programme again. John is also devising a new programme for us, on the ever popular topics of transport and travel, which will be shown in the Autumn. This event will link again with the national museums late opening event, 'Museums at Night'. It proved to be highly successful last year and far better than when we have opened before in support of this national event. We hope that this year will be no different.

We will take part in London Open Squares and Gardens in June and in September in support of our Heritage weekends: Open House London and the national opening for historic buildings. Teas will be available on these openings so why not come and enjoy afternoon tea and delicious homemade cakes in very pleasant surroundings? Our annual programme concludes with our traditional Christmas Soiree which is free for our Friends who have volunteered during the year. But you need not come alone

because there will be tickets for sale, as usual, for your friends. On the same evening John will switch on the floodlights to illuminate the Water Tower. This will be lit throughout December and January, and no doubt receive as many compliments as usual because the building floodlit looks quite magnificent in those cold dark winter months.

We hope that you will support us again this year in any way that you can. The money you help us raise not only pays the general services bills. As last winter season, you had helped us raise money enough to ask Jeff Gertz, who gave his services free of charge, to arrange for us to have the glass safety barrier placed in front of the wheel pit. This area had been causing safety concerns for a considerable time. This project was only possible because of the Friends support. This year we are expecting to carry out repairs to the parapet and the roof area over the stairwell. So please: Bring your friends along to events; Come and have tea when on offer; Spread the word about the Water Tower in order that we have more visitors and groups coming for tours and hires. We cannot keep our beautiful building well maintained without your help. Thank you.

*Jean Knight*

### **A Winning Streak?**

We are delighted to report that, late last year, your Water Tower team actually won the Friends of Wallington Library Quiz. I believe this to be a first! This was very largely due to John Thornton's creative input. Perhaps we may even be the victors of Amanda's quiz when we host this event in the Water Tower in April. Why not come along and help us do just that?

### **Gardeners Wanted**

Could you please contact Julia if you think you can spare an hour or two to help with the garden. We are not meeting regularly at the moment but would like to call on you for help when a gardening morning, afternoon or day is being arranged. Of course if you feel that you would like to take responsibility for the garden, please let Julia know.

### **Stewards Needed**

We will open the Water Tower on Sunday afternoons, this year from 23 April until 24 September and we will continue the practice of also opening the Hermitage not only on the first Sunday in the Month but also the third, which has proved to be very successful. We do however need stewards to help man these openings. Even if you can only help on one Sunday during the year this will be appreciated. You will never be expected to be on your own and we will tell you what you can expect of us and we of you. We have a small handbook to aid the memory.

Please will you let Julia know by filling in the Sunday Openings Rota Form, which is included in this Newsletter mailing, before April and the start of the season. Thank you.

### **Tea for Two**

There were considerable more than two for tea on our heritage open weekends! We normally have well over a hundred visitors each day for these openings, which are

free to the public. But Doris' cakes obviously look so tempting and so deliciously tasted that many more visitors than usual tarried for tea in the Saloon and Orangery. The hard working tea team generated a very large sum of money for the Water Tower funds which was matched by the compliments of the tea tasters.

### **Times Past XII Archive Film Show 2016, Friday 11 October**

The Times Past archive film shows include old documentaries and educational films from various sources which look at the changing face of Britain. This time we moved back to the beginning of documentary films as we know them, the 1930s, and also included some films from the 1940s; although not specifically covering the second world war.

Films from the 30s made up the first part of the programme. From 1934 came what might be considered as one of the first cooking programmes, but very different from the type we know today. The 'Kitchen-Craft' series always had an eye on economy and filling, rather stodgy fare. In 'Rabbit Pies' a 'countrywoman' demonstrated the old-fashioned way to bake a rabbit pie, padded out with bacon fat, with some top tips to nervous chefs, use of lots of salt and lard! 'Roadways' from 1937 was a survey through the eyes of the GPO's transport operations showing the development of transport and the growth of highways in Britain since the 1914-1918 war and the effects on industry, communications and the public. 'Nature's Charms' featured England's countryside as seen in 1933, and was used to promote a British car manufacturer. Most early films of this type focused on the manufacturing process, or on reliability and high performance, but 'Nature's Charms' ignored speed, safety and handling in favour of representing the lifestyle that can supposedly be attained through driving one of the cars. 'Farewell to Topsails' from 1937 showed the last of the topsail schooners transporting china clay from Cornwall to London. Only rediscovered after 2000, this nine-minute short is also interesting as it was an experiment in the use of Dufaycolor, one of the various colour processes that were being developed in Britain throughout the 1930s. 'Calendar of the Year', made in 1936 by the GPO, was an impressionistic record of seasonal activities in Britain and showed how the Post Office adapted to deal with the transmission of radio and television as part of the telephone service and its collection and distribution of mail. The second part of the programme contained films from the 1940s. 'A.I. at Lloyd's' (1942) showed the work of Lloyd's of London, their services to world shipping and the story of a voyage from Valparaiso to Hull. The S.S. Armadillo, '100 A.I.', sets out with a valuable cargo on her adventurous voyage; she is reported missing; her safe arrival is announced by the ringing of the famous Lutine Bell at Lloyd's. In the cartoon public information film 'Charley's March of Time' Charley questions the need for the National Insurance Acts of 1948, National Insurance payments, and Social insurance part of the new Welfare State. Two advertising films followed: in 'An Englishman's Home' (1946) take one tired hubby, a candle-lit supper and a glowing open fire. Mix plaintive violin strings and a cat and dog playing amicably by the hearth. This results in the perfect recipe for a wonderfully smooth and witty advert for malted milk bedtime drink! 'Elopement in France 1944' is another witty film where a French girl dirties her clothes while eloping with an American soldier. But a packet of a well-known washing powder seems to

solve the problem. The People's Land' (1941), a film to promoting Britain at home and abroad during war time, was a Technicolor guide to some of the coastline, countryside, and properties of beauty and historic interest, preserved for the people by the National Trust. They include prehistoric stone circles, ancient castles like fourteenth-century Bodiam, a Chiltern village, stretches of the Sussex downs, the famous valley of Dovedale and 14,000 acres of lovely country in Westmorland. 'Moving House' (1949) was a comedy showing that moving home can be quite a pleasant experience if is carried out by reliable moving man. Directed by Richard Massingham, who had appeared in many public information films of the period, he also appears in this film as the brother of the house father played by Kynaston Reeves. As in previous years we will repeat the 2016 October Times Past XII programme at a daytime showing at the Tower on Saturday 20 May 2017 at 2.30pm. So if you did not get to the October showing, or would like to see it again, please come along. We are planning to show the 2017 Times Past XIII on Friday 27 October. The theme of Times Past XIII is to be Transport and Travel. See our website for further details. John Freeman

### **The Christmas Soiree, Friday 2 December 2016**

Once again, we had a full house for our Soiree - so much so that John installed extra speakers for those in the saloon. It was encouraging to see some new faces. We endeavoured to present a mixture of readings and poems which revealed both brutal and peaceful elements linked to Christmas. Our penchant for Gervase Phinn featured once more, with a Joyce Grenfell-style account of a Nativity Play rehearsal, and the imagination of a 6<sup>^</sup>-year old was glimpsed in Evelyn Stanley's 'Sandals' story. A less attractive boy who got his just deserts was depicted in Ogden Nash's poem 'The Boy who laughed at Santa Claus'.

A more serious vein was revealed through a letter from Louis, Archbishop of Sens, in 1445 and Alfred Lord Tennyson's 'Ring out, wild bells'. This year's Benjamin Zephaniah poem contrasted greatly with the poor turkey of last year to remind us of conflicts world wide. We did visit other countries to reveal the tradition of 'La Befana' in Italy and to the USA for a tale of love in O. Henry's 'The Gift of the Magi'.

Guests were challenged with a short quiz before our break - food for thought, before enjoying the buffet. The usual raffle was generously supported and the ambiance was convivial.

Our thanks once again to all those who made the event possible and particularly to all those who attended and joined in with enthusiasm.

*Simone Guyonvarch*

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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)