



**FRIENDS OF
CARSHALTON
WATER TOWER**

NEWSLETTER

No. 59, AUGUST 2017

Dear Friends

I deeply apologise for the fact that the Friends' accounts were not presented at the AGM. Please find the Accounts for 2016/7 included in this mailing. If you have any queries or would like more information about these accounts please contact either our Treasurer John Thornton or me. Thank you.

Jean Knight

Our Annual Quiz

Our social year started very well with our traditional Friends' Quiz. The evening was extremely pleasant. Also, as usual, Amanda had an excellent array of questions, this year on the theme of Colour, and Amanda managed the evening extremely fairly. We had fewer teams than usual, which was a great pity as the evening is always fun and a great opportunity to network with other like-minded groups who are passionate about their own sites. We hope that next year our numbers will be back up to full strength. But we thank Amanda very much for all her work in making this evening most enjoyable.

London Open Garden Squares

In June this year we opened again in support of London Open Garden Squares. Very much to our surprise we had several visitors who had weekend passes. We were very pleased that many people had travelled considerable distances to visit us. They had to deal with Sunday travel, engineering works on the line, and the fact that there were no gardens open, other than ours, in the London Borough of Sutton.

These were a most enjoyable group of visitors as their interest was specifically in gardens and they did appreciate that we are a landscape and not a domestic garden and therefore did not expect to see a display of swathes of beautiful flowers. Many had a considerable knowledge of historic landscapes. Our guides for the day certainly need to be congratulated for all their extremely good work in engaging with these visitors and promoting us.

Our Social Year has not finished!

We will share a stall with the Carshalton Society at the Environmental Fair in Carshalton Park at the end of August so please drop by and say Hello.

We will again support the National Heritage and Open House London open days in September. These openings are free so please come and bring your friends. We will also be serving delicious modestly priced teas with homemade cakes on these occasions.

Apart from these special openings, we have two more very popular but different events to come. John's film show and our Christmas Soirée. John has devised an entirely new archive film programme for us, Times Past XIII, which focuses on Transport & Travel, and our Christmas Soirée offers a

Thank You to our stewards, guides and other helpers to celebrate them and the year with a special programme devised by Simone. Tickets can also be purchased for this event. Neither are to be missed so please book now! Details are on the enclosed Programme of Events.

Men of the Wrythe

We supported this very poignant local event which honoured the forty-five men from the immediate Wrythe Green area who were killed in action during the Great War. The memorial ceremony in the morning, with the unveiling of a permanent monument on Wrythe Green, was extremely respectful. In the afternoon there was the performance of a very powerful play, *The Roughs of the Wrythe*, written by Anne Pattison especially for this event. This told of these men's lives and deaths. Walks round and a talk about their area were also devised for the afternoon. One feels that it was a pity that it took so long to recognize these men's sacrifice.

Doris Freeman very kindly looked after a stall for us as part of this event in the Wrythe Recreation Ground and distributed a very large number of our leaflets.

Carshalton House Opening

We were delighted to have Carshalton House open again for the day on Sunday 16 July. This event was very well attended with two tours of over twenty people. These were carried out by Andrew Skelton whilst Margaret Coombs took our visitors over to the Hermitage and gave the garden tour.

It was an extremely successful afternoon with teas also being on offer. Doris provided very tempting homemade cakes and, with Simone's help, managed to sell many more teas than usual, giving our funds an excellent boost. The Committee thanks all the other stewards who were on duty for making this a successful day.

Carshalton in the Age of Sir John Fellowes, a talk by Andrew Skelton, Saturday 6 May

This event celebrated John Fellowes, a London Merchant and South Sea Company director, his purchase of the Carshalton House Estate in 1716, and the start of construction of the Water Tower shortly after – probably in 1717.

Andrew's talk '*Carshalton in the Age of Fellowes*' attempted to set the arrival of the new owner of Carshalton House within the context of the old village he found himself in. The spotlight inevitably fell on his social equals such as John Cator of Stone Court, Richard Houlditch of Bacons and Sir William Hamond of Westcroft, with their houses and pleasure gardens, but also on lesser inhabitants such as the merchant John Rason and members of the Hawkins family, about whom less is known.

Using documents from local and national archives, Andrew examined the attractions of the village, such as the many hostelries and inns, while highlighting their occupants' lives – notably those of Rebecca Harris and Richard Cook, whose financial battle led to a raid on Cook's brewing premises by the formidable Widow Harris! Finally, Andrew showed how the landowning class governed the lives of the rest of the village, either through employment, patronage or gift, or the Church Vestry where Fellowes and his equals held sway over the administration of poor relief. Andrew's talk looked into the lives of the lesser folk of the village, beyond the names of Scawen, Fellowes, Hamond and Houlditch who appeared on the national stage, and showed Carshalton 300 years ago was quite a diverse place.

John Freeman

Times Past XII: Archive Film from the 1930s & 1940s, Saturday 20 May

Our Times Past archive film show was repeated on a spring afternoon in May for those who missed the October 2016 presentation. It looked back through old documentaries and educational films at the changing face of Britain in the 1930s and 1940s; although not specifically covering the Second World War.

The first half of the programme covered the 1930s. From 1934 comes what might be considered as one of the first cookery programmes. In 'Rabbit Pies' a 'countrywoman' demonstrates the old-fashioned way to bake a rabbit pie, padded out with bacon fat, with some top tips and of lots of salt and lard thrown in! 'Roadways', from 1937, is a survey of 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' features England's countryside seen in 1933, and used to promote

Austin car models of the time, focused on the lifestyle that can supposedly be attained through driving one of these cars. 'Farewell to Topsails', from 1937, shows the last of the topsail schooners transporting China clay from Cornwall to London – an interesting film, 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, records the impressionistic seasonal activities in Britain and shows how the Post Office adapted to deal with the transmission of radio and television, as part of the telephone service and in its collection and distribution of mail.

The second half of Times Past was films from the 1940s. 'A.I. at Lloyd's' (1942) shows the work of Lloyd's of London, their insurance services to world shipping and the story of a voyage of the S.S. Armadillo, 'reported missing in bad weather'; 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. Two early advertising films followed: 'An Englishman's Home', a 1946 advert, takes one tired hubby, a candle-lit supper and a glowing open fire. Then it's off to bed with a cup of Horlicks the malted milk bedtime drink! 'Elopement in France 1944' is a witty film advert where a French girl dirties her clothes in the mud while eloping with an American soldier – but a packet of Rinso washing powder seems to solve the problem.

'The People's Land' (1941) is a film in Technicolor promoting Britain at home and abroad during wartime, and is a guide to some of the coastline, countryside, and properties preserved by the National Trust. 'Moving House 1949', is a comedy showing that moving home can be quite a pleasant experience if is carried out by reliable moving men. Directed by Richard Massingham, who had appeared in many public information films of the period, and also appears in this film.

The 2017 Times Past XIII is scheduled for Friday 27 October, and will have the theme 'Transport & Travel'. See our website for further details.

John Freeman



In the film "Nature's Charms" Austin car models are seen at Polesden Lacey: 1933

Annual General Meeting, 10 June 2017 – John Phillips' Talk

The AGM talk given by John Phillips looked at the life of Sir Nicholas Carew of Beddington and his neighbours, he being a contemporary of Sir John Fellowes. The latter was a member of the London merchant élite who had become wealthy from shipping, trade and finance which was then expanding rapidly in the late 17th and early 18th century London.

The Carews on the other hand, were 'old money' – the family had been established at Beddington since the 14th century and Sir Nicholas could look back to famous ancestors who had served Edward III, Henry VIII and Elizabeth, playing host to the Kings and Queens who had visited Beddington.

Their different backgrounds led to different building and gardening projects.

Sir John Fellowes had bought the Carshalton House estate in a crowded land market so it was relatively small. He did however have the money to commission an elaborate garden as well as the Water Tower to supply running water to Carshalton House and his garden fountains.

Sir Nicholas Carew did not have to worry about acquiring land as his family had owned most of Beddington parish for several centuries. He remodelled the ancient family home, keeping the Tudor great hall as a reminder of his family's illustrious past; he also transformed the grounds where his land holdings provided space to create a 1,000 foot long canal in front of the house, with avenues radiating out across the park making Beddington look like the seat of a very grand family indeed, so much more than the home of a mere merchant.

The financial realities were rather different, as the Carew estates had shrunk since the Tudor period. We do not have a full view of Sir Nicholas's income but his estates were probably worth about £600 a year after expenses and tax had been paid and, although there may have been some other sources of income, it is unlikely he was receiving more than £1,000 a year. Sir Nicholas was a poor financial manager and had an extravagant lifestyle. He was in debt from the day he became of age and almost certainly lost money in the South Sea Bubble. His early death in 1727 aged only 41 probably saved the estate from bankruptcy, but he left heavy debts to his heirs. Sir John Fellowes may have lacked the great landed estate but his disposable income from his business must have been much higher – that is of course until he overreached himself and was ruined by the collapse of the South Sea Company.

John Phillips illustrated the talk with some very interesting slides with many contemporary pictures and maps I had not seen before and ably answering the many questions that followed. A very interesting, enjoyable, and informative talk indeed.

Derek Yeo



The Fellows Family Coat of Arms

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

www.carshaltonwatertower.co.uk