



# NEWSLETTER

No. 61, AUGUST 2018

## FRIENDS OF CARSHALTON WATER TOWER

### New Handrails

Much to my relief and happiness, we had the handrails to our main entrance in situ just before our AGM. I was really beginning to wonder if the project would ever reach fruition. The search for a blacksmith took a considerable time. If they are good, they are extremely busy. But eventually we were fortunate enough to employ Nick Bates, of Burrows Lea Forge Ltd., who works on National Trust properties. After discussions with the LBS Planning Department, we were told we had to submit plans and elevation drawings for the project to obtain Listed Building and Planning consent. This we did in January. In April we were granted Planning but not Listed Building consent. After submitting all the drawings and application forms yet again, we eventually received Listed Building consent in June. Fortunately our blacksmith was extremely patient and accommodating. You may possibly have noticed that we also have a railing on the Water Tower side of the steps to West Street. We hope that both will be of assistance when you need them.



View of Entrance Door with the  
New Handrails  
either side of the double Doors



View from the Entrance Door showing the New Handrail  
on the steps down to the West Street  
entrance gate

## Building Works

With our beautiful buildings, building-works are always with us. We were extremely pleased to finally finish the refurbishment of the tower and have our viewing roof terrace repainted before our opening for the season. Since then we have had the bottom rail of the Pump Chamber door to the West Street steps renewed and are working on the window frames around the Water Tower to have them restored before repainting. We hope to complete this work and, at least, have the Saloon repainted this year.



View of the Water Tower from West Street detailing the new brickwork and pointing.



View of the Roof Terrace proving that the new paint is waterproof!

## Quiz Night

Amanda Hill again welcomed in our new season of events with one of her most enjoyable quizzes. It is an extremely pleasant way to host other Friends groups, who are very worthy contenders for the prize.

However, I have a very deep apology to make to our Friends. I had believed that this was the first year that we had actually won the Quiz, but my knuckles have been duly whacked. I have been corrected. Our team had won once before. I deeply apologise to our former winning team.

We hope that Amanda will devise another quiz for us next year and that you will join us for this very pleasant event.

## London Open Squares & Gardens Event

We supported, as we do annually, the London Parks and Gardens Trust's (LPGT) event on Sunday 10th June. We had 12 visitors and LPGT tickets, apart from our usual Sunday visitors. This was a very good number as these garden lovers normally wish to visit as many gardens as possible in the time available and there are still no other gardens, in this scheme, in our area. Amongst the group, who are always extremely interesting and interested in our landscape, were two Germans.

One of the German visitors is employed at Herrenhausen in Hanover. This estate has the most beautiful formal Baroque gardens. The Great Garden was set out in 1683 by the French landscape gardener, Martin Charonnier, for Sophia, wife of the Elector of Hanover. Their son would become George I of England in 1714.

George had a very deep passion for Herrenhausen, not as one may think to rebuild the palace, which was small, but to develop a series of wonderful fountains and other water features in the gardens. These were not powered by gravity and/or an Archimedean screw, as was usual, but by a series of pumps. One of our German visitors is working on the restoration of these ingenious early 18th century pumps. He hopes that the project will be completed next year and all the gardens' marvellous water features can be powered by these pumps once more, and the 20th century electricity power can be switched off. We wished them every success with this venture.

*Jean Knight*

### **Times Past XIII film show 'Transport & Travel; a springtime repeat showing**

Our Times Past archive film shows are normally repeated on a spring Saturday afternoon for those who missed the October showing. Also some people prefer an afternoon showing rather than coming out on a dark autumn evening.

The repeat of the 2017 Times Past was on Saturday 26th May 2018. Attendance was down on other years' repeat showings, probably as it was the start of the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, but the original autumn showing was very well attended.

The theme of Times Past XIII was Transport and Travel in the changing Britain of the 1950s & 1960s, the documentaries shown promoted holidays at home and abroad.

The first half of the programme started with a film made for SAGA Holidays; in 'Travelling Sixties' a group of elderly people are on their way to a holiday on the Isle of Wight in 1968 on a special train from Newcastle. 'London to Brighton Side by Side' from the BBC is made up of two films on a split screen and based on speeded-up rail journeys from London Victoria to Brighton, one from 1953 and a colour remake from 1983. Not sure there are any non-stop services now? 'Take to the Boats', made in 1962 for British Waterways, captures the beginnings of mass leisure travel on Britain's inland waterways. A Look at Life film 'The Needles Point the Way' from 1965 gives us a brief glimpse of the Isle of Wight as a holiday destination; and includes a visit by the Queen, who is shown leaving in a Hovercraft.

Four films made up the second part of the programme. In 'Rails to Talsarn' (1962), at Nantlle Tramway, Gwynedd, North Wales a Horse-drawn railway pulls slate wagons from Pen-yr-Orsedd quarry to Talsarn station, all now disappeared. 'Talking of Coaches' (1959) gives a brief introduction to coach history in Britain, and follows a coach tour to Italy in the early days of mass continental travel. 'Into the Blue', a 1950 Public Information Film, charts the development of air travel after the Second World War, and includes the early days of Heathrow airport, and airlines BEA and BOAC. 'Holiday with Everything', a promotional film for P&O, shows a family of four taking a Mediterranean cruise on the SS Arcadia in the 1950s.

The theme of this Autumn's Times Past XIV for 2018 is 'Sporting Britain': documentary films made to boost morale at home and abroad during World War II and into the years after the war.

Times Past XIV is set for Friday 26th October, starting at 7:30pm. See our website for further details.

*John Freeman*

## **The Annual General Meeting, Saturday 23rd June 2018**

This year's AGM was particularly well attended, partly, no doubt, on account of interest in the after-meeting talk, which also drew in a number of visitors, some of whom became new members.

The meeting heard reports on the Committee's activities during the past year, including commissioning building repair and maintenance work which, despite welcome support from the Trustees, resulted in a substantial, if temporary, reduction in our financial reserves.

Our speaker was local writer and Green activist, Bob Steel, co-author of the *River Wandle Companion*, and it was 'The Changing River Wandle' which was the subject of his talk, charting the growth and subsequent decline of the industrialisation of the river. There were watermills from mediaeval times but not only did their number increase substantially, but there were other activities, such as the use of the riverside meadows for calico-bleaching. Some of the mill sites eventually became chemical works, but these are now all gone, as are many of the riverside villas built in the 18th and 19th centuries.

After the talk came the now-traditional strawberry cream tea, which was much enjoyed by all present. Our thanks to Simone for providing the strawberries and cream, to Doris for the scones, to Hannah for her millionaires' shortbread and homemade raspberry jam and to Julia and her helpers for serving the tea.

*John Thornton*

### **Exciting News!**

The Trustees' publication, *Carshalton House: A Landscaped County Seat* is imminent!

It traces the development of Carshalton House Estate from the beginning of the 18th century until the present day and comprises six sections.

The first describes the occupants; the second explains the development of the pleasure grounds, then moves on to the follies; the subject of the third is the Water Tower, and the fourth section describes the Hermitage, Sham Bridge and garden structures lost from the site. Ancillary features, the service buildings and walled gardens, are described in the fifth section, and the Mansion occupies the sixth. This is divided into two parts; the first describes the areas which are available for viewing by the general public, whilst the second part documents some of the historical features in other areas of the Mansion.

The Trustees wish to express their deepest thanks to everyone who so generously donated money to offset the cost of copyright for the use of some of the illustrations featured in the book. All the money raised by the sale of the book, after the printing costs are taken into account, will go directly into the Trust's funds to assist in the upkeep of our unique property. There will be a discounted book price for Friends and please try to persuade your friends to buy copies. Thank you

### **Carshalton Environmental Fair**

**Don't forget** - the Friends of Carshalton Water Tower will have a stand at the Carshalton Environmental Fair on 27th August, Bank Holiday Monday, so come and talk to us there!

*Friends of Carshalton Water Tower: Secretary Julia Gertz, 136 West Street, Carshalton SM5 2NR  
(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)