

FRIENDS OF
CARSHALTON
WATER TOWER

NEWSLETTER

No. 62, MARCH 2019

Dear Friends

Your Committee has been busily devising another exciting year of events ahead for you. Many are successful repeats such as our annual Friends' Quiz which now traditionally starts our Friends' season of events and is so ably and entertainingly devised by Amanda Hill. The evening is great fun even if some of the answers totally elude one. This is followed in May by John Freeman's afternoon showing of his Times Past XIV programme: Supporting Britain, which shows morale-boosting World War II films. This was very well received last autumn.

We are extremely pleased that Margaret Thomas will give the talk after our AGM on June 8th. We will benefit from her research of the Men of the Wrythe and this exceedingly poignant time in our local history. In lighter mood later in the month we celebrate the summer solstice, which we have not done for several years. This will take the form of a Thé Dansant, offering a fabulous afternoon's entertainment in style with the Regency Dance Group.

Again we will have a presence at the Carshalton Charter Fair, in the Memorial Gardens and the Environmental Fair, in Ruskin Road Park. We will also be supporting, not only the Festival of British Archaeology, but, as usual, the London Open House, the National Heritage Opening, the Wandle Valley Festival and the Museums at Night opening. For the latter, in November, John again is delving into his archive to present a completely new film programme in the evening. This will have the theme of transport and technology in Britain between the 1940s and 1960s. The times of Water Tower openings vary with these different functions. These are noted on the Programme of Events, enclosed with this mailing.

Our Friends' Events Programme ends with our Christmas Soirée, which is always oversubscribed, and the Water Tower floodlighting to cheer us and to give us a presence over the festive season and those cold January nights.

We are extremely pleased to be working with the two archivists at St Philomena's to produce our season's Orangery display this year which will show the many changes made by the Daughters of the Cross and then the Trustees to keep St Philomena's at the forefront of educational excellence.

During our 'closed' season Julia has been very busily showing prospective customers our building with the possibility of a hire. Last season, although we had one photo shoot, we have had to refuse others because of the Junior School's building works. We need the income from hires as our Sunday openings' revenue does not pay the bills. If you or know of people who may wish to hire the Water Tower, please let Julia know.

We have an excellent group of volunteers who help to meet and greet our visitors on Sunday afternoons but we really need more Volunteers to spread the load. Please do not forget as Friends and Volunteers, this is your beautiful building, so should you be free, even an afternoon a month, Julia will be very

pleased to hear from you. There is the Sunday Opening Rota Form included in this mailing, please offer sometime.

We hope that the year has started extremely well for you and that we will greet you and possibly your friends again at least at one of the Friends' events this season.

Jean Knight

Decorating the Water Tower

We are very pleased to tell you that during March, the Saloon, Kitchen and Toilet areas are being redecorated. These have not been touched, apart from washing down, for several years. The external woodwork of the Water Tower will also be repainted. This is frequently carried out, every 5 to 7 years. The south elevation suffers the most because of the extremes of temperature upon the woodwork. We have also had broken glass panes replaced.

Carshalton Environmental Fair, Monday 27 August in Carshalton Park

The Friends had their usual presence at this major local event on Bank Holiday Monday. Although our pitch was not on the 'main drag' the numbers of people attending the Fair meant we attracted our share of notice through the day and were able to engage people's interest in our events and activities.

Heritage Openings

Last season, in September, we opened again, with free entry, in support of the National Heritage Openings, which used to be the most popular. And we opened for Open House London which is now by far the most successful. We had well over a 100 visitors a day. It is very rewarding to see so many people wishing to visit our site from considerable distances.

The London opening was very financially rewarding as we were able to sell a very large number of teas because of the delicious cakes on sale. Ann Morley very generously added to Doris' very large batch of homemade cakes this year. Doris also works very hard on these days and we thank Doris very much for her continuing support.

Times Past XIV archive film show: "Supporting Britain", Friday 28th October

The Times Past for 2018 was based on films made to inform, to boost national morale, and to promote Britain overseas during World War II and in the post war period. Times Past was also an event as part of the Museums at Night Festival.

The first half of the programme started with *Christmas Under Fire* (1940) from the Crown Film Unit. It was conceived as propaganda primarily for an American audience, to raise support for the Allied cause during the Second World War, produced in the context of German bombings of British cities, particularly London. In *Village School* (1942) from the Ministry of Information child evacuees adapt to village life in a patriotic documentary starring a real Buckinghamshire school teacher, Mrs James.

This film was followed by a break to some short Public information films: *Dig for Victory* to encourage the public to grow their own vegetables, and three 20-second films; one on how to cook green vegetables correctly, then the "Radio Doctor" promoting olive oil and concentrated orange juice available for young children, and the third film declares Dried Egg is available – one pack every 8 weeks to certain families.



Dig for Victory

War and Order (1940), a film by the Post Office film unit, takes a light-hearted look at the serious business of extra police training deployed for wartime, particularly upgrading what we now know as special constables. *The Green Girdle* (1941), was an early Technicolor colour film, from the British Council. It bid to encourage city-dwellers to leave behind the restrictions of war. *Green Girdle* escapes from the austere urban landscape of inner-city London and savours the natural delights of the capital's rural surroundings, like Box Hill and Hampstead Heath. *The Story of English Inns* (1944), another British Council film, showed the roles inns have played in England over the years, and the social centres they are today. The film also showed some of the roles the British pub played in wartime. In December 1941, the Ministry of Information stated that *The Story of English Inns*, amongst other films, should not be distributed abroad, as it was counteractive to war effort.

The second half of the programme started with another selection of very short Public Information films, including the first two from Richard Massingham. Films from him often featured in earlier "Times Past" shows. He was a prolific producer, director and actor in many short documentaries up to his death in the early 1950s. In *5 inches!* Richard promotes saving water giving a comic performance in a bath containing 5 inches of water. He next appears in a film used to recruit women as Post Office Telephonists in the post war period.



Piccadilly Roundabout 1943

In *Saving Electricity*, a factory worker is seen complaining during a power cut. *Piccadilly Roundabout* (1943) is another film with an input from Richard Massingham. It shows Piccadilly Circus, in peace and war, as the hub of the world. In wartime, the crowd is as large as ever; many men and women are in uniform. In Piccadilly there are bomb scars; the brilliant lights and neon signs have disappeared. Shots include several famous streets, clubs and restaurants, the Piccadilly tube, Leicester Square, and cosmopolitan Soho.

World Garden (1942), a short colour film from the British Council, shows the public walking through the grounds of Kew Gardens and enjoying the flowers. Meanwhile, even in wartime, serious botanical research is conducted behind the scenes. *Away for the Day* is one of the first films in colour from British Transport Films. Whether it's a paddle in the sea or a visit to some Roman remains, a day spent watching the countryside go by or an afternoon's inspection of a famous house, a party outing by hired coach can be a real day out. *Away for the Day* is the story of some coach parties enjoying trips all over England and Wales. *Widdicombe Fair* is a light-hearted film, and the last in our programme: a rendition of the traditional English folksong 'Widdicombe Fair' is accompanied by animated drawings, one of two traditional song films in cartoon form. These films were made as an experiment, in response to requests from the British Council for films of a lighter nature, the other film being *The Lincolnshire Poacher*.



Away for the Day 1950

Last October's showing of Times Past XIV "Supporting Britain" was very well attended. However, if you missed it, or would like to see it again, we will repeat it at a daytime showing at the Water Tower on Saturday 18 May 2019 at 2.30pm. This Autumn's Times Past XV for 2019 will be a mixed bag of documentary films from the 1940s to the 1960s covering in its content, transport, technology and life in Britain. Times Past XV is set for Friday 1 November starting at 7.30pm. See our website for further details.

John Freeman

The Trustees' Book Launch



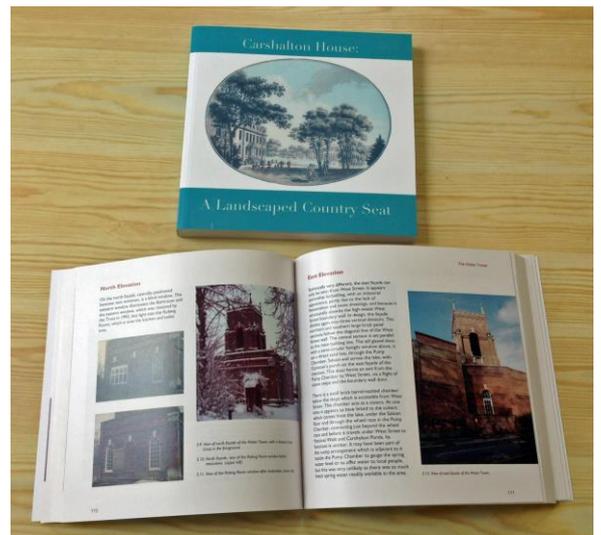
The Trustees were delighted to see so many people at the book launch of their book, *Carshalton House: A Landscaped Country Seat*, on Saturday 20th October. Derek, our Chair of Trustees, welcomed everyone and spoke about the book. Sadly our Patron, Mark Girouard, was unable to be with us. But he very generously wrote the very interesting Forward for our publication.

Our new Friends' Committee member, Mandy, made some delicious canapés for the event and Hannah gave us again her very tasty millionaire short cake. With champagne and Julia's fare, it was a real treat.

The book sales went very well and we received news that the first on-line book was also sold on that day, which was very exciting.

Sales have been continuing steadily but the Trust needs to sell 300 books to cover the printing costs. If you have not purchased a copy already, please consider doing so as all the proceeds are going to the Trust for the upkeep of our buildings and landscape. Both Clive, our very able editor, and Jean have given their time freely to this project.

There will be copies on sale at our Friend's Quiz on Friday 6th April from 7.15 pm and on our Sunday openings, commencing on Sunday 28th April, from 2.30 pm to 5.00 pm. However if you wish to purchase your copy before, you may do this on line: www.carshaltonwatertower.co.uk, or complete the enclosed order form. Thank you.



The Christmas Soirée, Friday 7 December 2018 in the Water Tower

Our annual Christmas celebration proved a success. We had several new faces and a fine attendance. This year the programme was divided into two contrasting halves. The first was sombre and focused on those less fortunate during the Yuletide. As is our tradition, we reflected on World War I through the Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy's *The Christmas Truce*. Linked to those involved in the armed forces was Helen Thomas's *World without End*, relaying her family's last Christmas with her poet husband Edward. Local goodwill gestures were relayed through a newspaper relating the generosity of the owners of a Wimbledon pub, and one heard of the plight of a young musician who lived in his car all year.

The mulled wine and refreshments gave everyone renewed vigour and singing was enthusiastic in our second half, which was more positive and amusing. We met 'Just William' disgruntled and Simon Brett's 'Little Sod' intent on ruining his doting parents' Christmas. There were some entertaining accounts of Nativities, both by children and animals, which did not always go to plan. All in all, it proved a successful and enjoyable evening and, thanks to the generosity of patrons, we did well on the raffle and the atmosphere was most convivial. We hope that 2019 has begun in the positive frame of mind in which we left you.

Simone Guyonvarch

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