



FRIENDS OF  
CARSHALTON  
WATER TOWER

## Chairman's Report 2019 - 2020

### Dear Friends

Your Committee and myself hope that this report finds you very well in these difficult times.

We had a very successful second half of 2019, with a pleasant AGM and an excellent talk given by Margaret Thomas, who finely honoured the Men of the Wrythe by evoking those men as real individuals. This was followed by our traditional strawberry tea. In July the summer solstice party took the form of an extremely over subscribed Regency The Dance. This delightful entertainment was devised by Simone. Doris Freeman, Hannah and Simone showed their skills in making very tasty confectionary using Regency recipes. It was a very splendid costumed affair and we were exceedingly sorry that not everyone was able to take part, who wished to attend.

We seem each year to have more and more people visiting the Water Tower on the Heritage weekends, very much to our pleasure but we are in need of considerably more stewards on these days. So please contact Julia and volunteer, if we are fortunate enough to be out of this lockdown. It is a very interesting way to spend an afternoon.

John Freeman's film show, in support of Museums at Night, was very successful. The Orangery display, about the History of St Philomena's School, had also been very well received. Our Christmas Soiree, as always, was a very pleasant gathering, and a small *Thank You* to our Friends and Volunteers: Julia Ashford; Margaret Coombs; Lynda Cooper; Anne Dodwell; Viorica Feler-Morgan; Leo Wenkert; Clive Orton; John Greig; Andrew Skelton; Tony Thorpe; Mark Witowska; our Chair of Trustees, Derek Yeo, who so kindly acted as stewards throughout last year and help in so many other ways, Doris Freeman who contributes so much to our funds by providing delicious cakes and organizing our teas and raffles and Anne Dodwell who, at our Soiree, helped to set the Christmas atmosphere beautifully by reading, with John Thornton and Simone, Christmas related passages. Simone produced this entertainment, with technical assistance from John Freeman. John had also, as is the tradition since 2000, floodlit the Water Tower, which looks magnificent during the winter.

In the 'Closed' period your committee was as busy as ever preparing this year's events programme. We had the Bathroom ceiling painted and caught up on many of those little jobs which always need doing. In addition to this, we are working on a permanent information display board to be placed by the Hermitage. This is being funded from a legacy left by Meg Woodford, who was a Sunday Steward and a former St Philomena's pupil.

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

*The Friends of Carshalton Water Tower, the working Committee of the Carshalton Water Tower and Historic Garden Trust, Registered Charity no. 1086243*

This year, 2020, started very well. The theme, the South Sea Bubble, was chosen because it is the 300th anniversary of the crash of the South Sea Company. John Freeman would develop our Dodgy Bankers' display to give more detail about the Company. Andrew Skelton would give us two related talks, one just after our AGM and the other in October, which we still hope will take place, and we would support the London Borough of Sutton's South Sea Company related events.

We would also, for the first time, be supporting CAOS, the Carshalton artists' initiative which has annually been going from strength to strength, with a display of work in the Water Tower.

In January Julia hosted, in the Water Tower, a group of pupils from St Philomena's and welcomed back Brenda Allen and her walkers again. Then everything came to an abrupt halt with the Covid-19 lockdown. Unfortunately Amanda Hill's Quiz, which traditionally launches our season, and John film show had to be cancelled. However we would like to pick up on our Friends' programme, as soon as the government repeals Social Distancing requirements.

As this is extremely unlikely to happen before July we have very regretfully decided to cancel gathering for the AGM. I am extremely sorry to deprive you of Andrew's talk about Sir John Fellowes' involvement with the South Sea Company and of course the strawberry tea. But as there are matters we have to address at an AGM. We are enclosing a Voting Form and a stamped addressed envelope with the AGM Papers. Apart from being so kind as to vote and return your Voting Form to Julia, we will very much appreciate it, if you have an email address, you will let us have it.

I cannot thank your committee, Julia, Simone, Hannah, Mandy, our two Johns and our newly co-opted member, Robert Walker, who has generously supplied trees, enough for the enormous amount of unseen work they put into supporting the Water Tower and their willingness to do that little extra to help. I would also like to thank Jeff Gertz for keeping the garden so tidy around the Water Tower for our visitors. And I thank you, our Friends and Volunteers, very much for your continuing support in these difficult times.

Jean Knight  
Chair 2020.

PS.

### **Obituary: Edmond Dubery Weaving**

It is with an extremely heavy heart that I report the recent death of Edmond Weaving. Edmond was a private person but always a true Friend of the Water Tower for many years, quietly supportive of our projects and most generous with his donations. His very sound comments will certainly be missed by us. Our condolences are with his family.